

**The Great Doctrines of the Bible**  
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## The Great Doctrines of the Bible

### Introduction

The Bible is a book from God which teaches how to be saved by faith in Jesus Christ. It is also a history book from God revealing His salvation for human beings from creation to the new creation. The Bible is also a doctrine book from God. Doctrine means teaching. It explains the great teachings in the

Bible correctly which center around His salvation in Jesus Christ. This study seeks to introduce and summarize these great doctrines of the Bible. These great doctrines are: 1. The Bible; 2. The True God; 3. The Creation; 4. The Fall; 5. The Only Salvation; 6. The New Testament Church; 7. The 2nd Coming.

### I. The Bible

#### Introduction

God spoke to Adam and Eve before they sinned and after they sinned. He continued to teach men through prophets before the flood. After the flood God spoke through prophets to reveal His will. The prophets' message centered around Christ and His salvation. God promised that Christ would come through Abraham and the nation of Israel and prophets were raised up in Israel to reveal Him. God had some of these messages of the prophets put in writing. In the days of Moses God began the Bible in about 1,500 BC. God used about 40 prophets over a period of 1,600 years to write the Bible. It was finished about 100 AD. From the beginning of the Bible God revealed how to be saved by Christ, to live for Him and to serve Him. The Bible is called The Word of God, The Scripture or Scriptures, The Prophets, etc., Genesis 2:15-17; 3:8-19; 6:13; 7:1; 12:1-3; Jude 14; etc.

#### A. The Inspiration of the Bible

God is the author of the Bible. Many verses teach us this. 2Timothy 3:16-17 teaches that it is inspired of God. This means that the words of the Bible came out with the breath of God. Because of this it is the highest authority and it is profitable for us.

God used men who were prophets to speak and write the Bible. 2Peter 1:20-21 teaches that no part of the Bible is the private interpretation of the prophet who wrote it because it did not come from the will of the prophet but from God the Holy Spirit. A prophet might have more than one position. He might be a king, a priest, a farmer, etc. and also a prophet. For example Moses was a judge and a prophet, Exodus 18:13; Deuteronomy 18:15.

God used miracles to prove that He is the author of the Bible not the prophets that He used to write it. Exodus 4:1-9 and Hebrews 2:3-4 teach us that all of the Bible is proved to be from God. Many different kinds of miracles were used. Prophets might predict what would happen soon and it would happen. Prophets might heal a person of a sickness, raise the dead, etc. True prophets who sought to do a miracle always did it. Their miracles were genuine 100% of the time. They manifested knowledge and power that only God had to prove that their words came from God, Deuteronomy 18:22; 1Kings 18:22-39.

False prophets might do unusual things that might deceive people but their predictions are not fulfilled 100% of the time and many of their alleged miracles are not genuine, Satan has more power than men and can do unusual things but he does not have all power and knowledge like God has, Exodus 7:8-12; 8:16-19.

The true prophets made some long-term predictions which would be fulfilled long after

they died. These have all been fulfilled but the ones which will be fulfilled when Jesus comes the second time. But the fulfilled predictions about things before the 2nd Coming are proof to us today that the Bible is God's Word. There are hundreds of these fulfilled prophecies. Other characteristics of the Bible also prove to us that the Bible is God's Word and our authority to go by on all things that it teaches.

### **B. The Formation of the Bible**

The Bible began to be formed when Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. When God called him to be a prophet he told God that people would not believe that he was a prophet with a message from God. God said to him that some would believe him because of the miracles He would enable him to do. Some did believe and the first five books were written and accepted as God's Word, Exodus 4:1-9.

God continued to raise up prophets for 1,600 years to speak and to write for Him. He raised up about 40 more prophets after Moses to write the rest of the Bible. Some believed them because of the divine miracles that God gave them. Their predictions of future events were always true and their miracles always took place to prove that only the true God who has all power and all knowledge gave them their messages.

God completed the forming of the Bible when the last book of the New Testament was written. After this prophesy was to cease because the Bible would be finished. The coming of Christ to save us from our sins was predicted many times in the Old Testament of the Bible. The New Testament reveals how Jesus fulfilled all of these predictions showing that He was the Christ or Messiah. It reveals how He will come a second time to give us new bodies and to make a new perfect world which He will rule over with believers forever. The Bible is finished, 1Corinthians 13:8-10.

There have been many false prophets throughout history who have sought to mislead people. God has given us tests to show who is a true prophet. 1. A true prophet will not give false teachings that contradict what God has already given in His Word, Exodus 13:1-4; Isaiah 8:20; 1John 4:1-3. 2. A true prophet will have miracles which will prove to the people in his day that he is a prophet of God. His predictions and miracles will always happen, Deuteronomy 18:21-22; Hebrews 2:3-4. 3. A true prophet will not come after God said prophesy would cease. There have been no true prophets after the prophets who wrote the New Testament. We have all the true prophets that we need in the Bible. True prophets taught but more than that they gave new messages from God which the Holy Spirit of God enabled them to speak and or write without error. We have and will have preachers, teachers and witnesses until the 2nd Coming. They will preach, teach and witness what has already been given by God in the Bible.

### **C. The Preservation of the Bible**

God has promised to preserve the Bible. He has kept that promise. Some in history have sought to destroy the Bible. They tried to burn every copy but God preserved it. Some who copied it and translated it have made sincere mistakes at times but God has preserved it. We have copies of the various books of the Bible which were used in the days before Christ's first coming and during His coming and in the early centuries after His coming and they show that the Bibles we have today are like them in the teachings of the Bible, Matthew 24:35; Isaiah 40:8; 1Peter 1:24-25.

### **Conclusion: Review Questions & Answers**

1. When did God first reveal Himself to man? In the days of Adam and Eve
2. Through whom did God speak? Prophets
3. Through which nation was Christ and the Bible to come? Israel

4. When did God begin the Bible? In the days of Moses
5. What 3 truths about Christ are taught in the Bible? How to be saved, to live, to serve.
6. Give 3 names given to the Bible. The Word of God, The Scripture, The Prophets.
7. Who is the author of the Bible? God
8. What is meant by "given by inspiration of God?" The words came with the breath of God.
9. Since God is the author of the Bible it is our authority and it is profitable. T or F
10. Whom did God use to write the Bible? Men who were prophets
11. How did God prove that the book of the prophet was His word? By miracles
12. False prophets can do unusual things. T or F
13. The predictions of false prophets are 100% accurate. T or F
14. How can we today know the Bible is God's Word? By all the predictions fulfilled before the 2nd Coming and other characteristics
15. When did the Bible begin to be formed? In the days of Moses
16. Moses lived in about 1,500 BC. T or F
17. About how long did it take to finish the forming of the Bible? About 1,600 years
18. About how many prophets were used in the formation of the Bible? 40
19. Why has prophecy ceased? The Bible is complete and there are no more true prophets.
20. All of the teachings of the Bible have been preserved. T or F

## II. The True God

### Introduction

The Bible does not seek to prove the existence of God because this is so clear from creation. The power and wisdom displayed in the creation demands that there be a creator with power and wisdom to create it. The one who denies this is called a fool in the Bible. We know God exists from creation but the Bible reveals more about the true God. God is so great that our finite minds could never know Him fully but we can and should know more about Him, Psalms 14:1; 19:1-3; Romans 1:18-21.

#### A. The Nature of God

God is spirit in substance rather than matter. He is non-material but real. He created matter and the spirits of men. He is not an idol. He can manifest Himself as a man but He is spirit, John 1:1, 14; 4:24; 1Timothy 1:17; Deuteronomy 4:15-20.

God is all powerful or omnipotent. Nothing is impossible with God. But God will not do things contrary to His nature. He cannot cease to be God. He will not be unrighteous or unjust, etc., Genesis 17:1; Matthew 19:26.

God is eternal. He always has been and always will be. Men had a beginning but if they believe on Jesus Christ as their Saviour, they have eternal life and will never have an end, Psalm 90:2; Deuteronomy 33:27.

God is present everywhere or omnipresent yet He manifests His presence in a special way in heaven and at times in other places, Psalm 139:7-10; Matthew 18:20.

#### B. The Personality of God

God is a trinity. He is one yet He is three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is a mystery which we accept by faith because the Bible teaches it. There are many things we do not fully understand but we know they are true and believe. Examples: electricity, radio, TV, etc. In Genesis 1:1, 26, "God" is plural, "created" is singular implying the trinity, Matthew 28:19.

God is all knowing or omniscient. He knows all about the past, present and future. God has all wisdom. God cannot increase or decrease in knowledge or wisdom since He has all of it, 1John 3:20; Acts 15:18; Isaiah 46:9-10.

God is holy, righteous, just and true. He cannot sin, Psalms 11:4-7; 145:17; John 17:25.

God is love. His love is defined in the Bible. This love can manifest itself in grace and mercy, 1John 4:8; Matthew 5:44-45; Ephesians 2:4-9; 3:17-19; Romans 5:5-10.

God is unchangeable or immutable in His nature and personality. He cannot cease to be spirit, all powerful, eternal and all present. He cannot cease to be a trinity, have all knowledge and wisdom. He cannot cease to be perfectly holy, righteous, just and true. He cannot cease to be full of love, grace and mercy, Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17.

### **C. The Works of God**

God is the author of the Bible. He used men to write it for Him guided by the Holy Spirit. It is true and is our final authority, 2Timothy 3:16-17; 2Peter 1:20-21.

God created and made the heavens and the earth in six days. It was perfect until Satan and man sinned, Genesis 1:1-2:3; Psalm 102:25.

God has provided a way to be saved from our sins and to be made righteous by faith in Jesus Christ, John 3:16; Ephesians 1:3-6.

God will judge the sinner and justly punish him. There will be a final judgment for Satan, the fallen angels and unsaved human beings, Revelation 20:10-15; Matthew 25:41.

### **Conclusion: Review Questions & Answers**

1. Why doesn't the Bible seek to prove the existence of God? Because it is so obvious.
2. What about creation proves that God exists? the power and wisdom displayed
3. Give 4 facts about God's nature. He is spirit, all powerful, eternal and omnipresent.
4. What is meant by God being spirit? He is non-material, but real.
5. What is meant by the trinity? God is one yet 3 persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
6. Can we fully understand this? No, but we should believe it.
7. What is meant by the eternity of God? He has always been and will always be.
8. What is meant by the omnipresence of God? He is everywhere but He is not every thing.
9. Give 4 facts about God's personality. He is a trinity; He has all knowledge; He is perfectly holy, righteous and just; He is full of love, grace and mercy.
10. Does God's nature or personality change? no
11. What are the 4 works of God? Bible, Creation, Salvation and Final Judgment
12. How can love manifest itself? as Grace and Mercy

## **III. The Creation**

### **Introduction**

God created all of the substance of the heavens and the earth at the beginning of the first day. This substance of the earth was covered with water and was without form and void of all living creatures. Then in the remaining time of the first day and going through the sixth day we are taught how He formed the substance and filled it with living things.

These days were 24 hour days. We know they were 24 hour days because they were numbered as first, second, etc. and because they are described as having an evening and morning. We also know that God rested on the seventh day which was the reason Israel was to rest on the seventh day of each week, a 24 hour day. All of God's creation was very good. There was no sin or death. God rested on the seventh day from His work of creation, Genesis

1:1-2:3.

### **A. Angels**

God created the heavens on the first day. The word heaven is plural in the Hebrew. The Bible teaches that there are three heavens. They are the heaven where God manifests His presence in a special way, the heaven where the stars are located and the heaven where the birds fly, which is our atmosphere. The heaven where God manifests His presence would include the angels. No details of this are given here because the emphasis is upon the earth. But other Scriptures tell us more about the angels, Genesis 1:1; Psalms 104:4; 148:1-5; Hebrews 1:7.

### **B. Earth**

On the first day after creating the substance of the heavens and the earth, the Bible begins to tell us more about the earth. It was covered with water and was without form and void and darkness was upon it. God made light or light rays and put the light rays in place.

In days two through four the firmament, dry land, plant life, sun, moon and stars were made and put in place. All is mentioned in its relationship to the earth. Firmament means space and is also called heaven. Firmament or space was made on the second day and the space around the earth was divided into two heavens or spaces by an invisible water barrier in a gaseous state in the second day. The one heaven or firmament was where the stars would be located; the other heaven or firmament was where the birds would fly and our air supply was located. The heaven where God manifests His presence is not located for us.

In the third day God made the dry land and plant life. In the fourth day God made the lights and put them in place. The light of the first day was the light rays and the lights of the fourth day were the light producers and reflectors. The light rays were put in place first and then the heavenly bodies which would continue to produce and reflect light for us were put in place behind the light rays

In the fifth and sixth days birds, fish, land animals and man were made. All life was made after its kind. Moses was used by God to write Genesis. The original plants, birds, fish, animals and human beings were made after the kinds of Moses' day. The kinds that existed in Moses' day were like the kinds made in the week of creation. When the original life forms reproduced what they reproduced was like the kinds of Moses' day. They did not change their kinds from 4,000 BC to 1,500 BC. They didn't evolve from one kind to another kind. The kinds were to continue the same from creation throughout the future, Genesis 1:1-25.

### **C. Man**

In the sixth day God made man. He was made in the image of God and he was given dominion over the earth under God. To be in God's image means he was like God in some ways. He was like God in his mind and in his morals in a limited way. For example human beings would be able to study their body and learn how it works and how to repair it when injured. They would have medical workers and hospitals and schools to train the workers. Animals cannot do this. Their minds are not like God's. Human beings have moral values like God which cause them to have laws, courts, prisons. Animals do not have have this ability, Genesis 1:26-28.

### **Conclusion: Review Questions & Answers**

1. How long did God take to create and make the heavens and the earth? six days
2. How long were these days? 24 hour days
3. What did God make on the first day? the substance of the heavens and earth and light
4. When were the angels made? day 1
5. What does "firmament" mean? space

6. What did God make on days 2-4? firmament, dry land, plant life and heavenly bodies
7. What was made on days 5-6? birds, fish, land animals and man
8. How was man different than the other kinds of life on the earth? in image of God
9. What is meant by "in our image?" like God in mental and moral abilities
10. What is meant by "after its kind?" made after the kinds in Moses' day
11. What was said about God's creation when He finished it? It was very good!
12. What did God do on the 7th day? rested from creating and making

#### **IV. The Fall**

##### **Introduction**

The perfect creation of God became imperfect when some angels sinned against their God and Creator. Adam and Eve sinned against God and this affected them and the earth. The first sin of these angels and Adam and Eve is called the Fall.

##### **A. Angels**

One of God's holy angels sinned against God. This angel is known as Satan or the Devil. Other angels followed Satan's leadership and revolted against God. They are called devils or demons. This fall of the angels took place sometime between the creation week and Genesis 3 when Satan tempted Adam and Eve. Satan and the fallen angels continue to sin and tempt men to sin. Because Satan and the fallen angels sinned and continue to sin they will face God in judgment and be punished for their sins forever, Genesis 3:1-5; Matthew 4:1-11; 25:41; 1Peter 5:8; 1John 3:8; Revelation 12:3-4, 9; 20:7-10.

##### **B. Man**

Satan like a serpent tempted Eve and she sinned against God and ate of the tree God had forbidden Adam and Eve to eat. Adam followed Eve's example and sinned also. The moment they sinned they died in their soul and some years later they both died in body. Sin brings death or separation from God. They no longer had fellowship with God, a curse was upon them and the earth, and they faced eternal punishment for their sins, Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-13.

The descendants of Adam have received the same kind of nature that he had after the fall. All of the human race have a sinful Adamic nature from birth. All human beings begin to sin sometime after their birth. Their soul is dead towards God and their body is also affected by Adam's sin and will die in time and be punished unless God intervenes with His salvation. Sometime after the 2nd Coming of Christ all unsaved human beings will be judged for their sins and receive just punishment, Psalms 14:1-3; 51:5; Romans 3:10-12, 23; 6:23; Revelation 20:11-15.

Since God created man he is under God and His laws. Some law has been written in the soul of man and the law is also revealed in the Bible, Romans 2:14-15. Sin is breaking God's law, 1John 3:4b. Man can have sinful thoughts, sinful words and sinful deeds. All of man is affected by sin, his mind, emotions, will and body. This is called total depravity. There are degrees of sin. Some have sinned more than others and some have committed greater sins but all are affected totally in their being.

After death the unsaved man's soul goes to a place of punishment in the unseen world. Sometime after the second coming God will raise the bodies with the souls of the unsaved to face the final judgment and then he will be sent to the lake of fire forever, body and soul, Luke 16:22b-24; Matthew 10:28.

##### **C. Earth**

Since man was given dominion over the earth under God, when Adam and Eve sinned all

connected to them was also affected. The earth received a curse on it. The earth after Adam and Eve's fall did not produce as easily as before the fall. Farming the land was difficult. Child-birth became very difficult for mothers. Farming and child-birth are just two examples of the effect of the fall, Genesis 3:14-19; Romans 8:19-23.

#### **Conclusion: Review Questions & Answers**

1. What are the two names given to the first angel to sin? Satan and Devil
2. Who first followed Satan when he sinned? some other angels
3. What name is given to them in the Bible? devils or demons
4. When did Satan and the demons first sin? between the creation and Genesis 3
5. How was Satan pictured when he tempted Eve? as a serpent
6. How did Eve sin? by eating fruit from the forbidden tree
7. When Adam and Eve sinned what happened to them? died in soul and later in body
8. What did they receive because of their sin? separation from God, curse, future punishment
9. How are the descendants of Adam affected? receive a sinful nature and cursed earth
10. What is sin and its result? transgressing God's law and future punishment
11. How was the earth affected by Adam's sin? farming became difficult for man
12. How was child-birth for the woman because of sin? difficult

## **V. The Only Salvation**

### **Introduction**

Because of man's fall he is dead spiritually and unable to save himself. But God has a plan to save him. Salvation is of God. Man does not deserve to be saved but God has provided a way of salvation because of His love, mercy and grace. God so loved the world He sent His Son and He came willingly and because of love to do for man what he could not do for himself. Sin must be paid for and Jesus came to pay the just and righteous penalty for our sins. Because of God's righteousness and justice man's sin must be punished and paid for in order for man to be saved. Jesus lived a perfect life for us and took the punishment for our sins and paid for them when He died on the cross. Because He paid for it in full He arose from the dead. God's salvation is presented as a free gift of His grace. Man receives it as a gift by faith in Jesus Christ. God does not have to provide salvation to anyone but He offers salvation to all believers in Christ. Christ's righteous life is charged to the believer and complete forgiveness of all sin is given because of Christ's death on the cross. He does not provide a plan of salvation to angels but He does have a plan of salvation for human beings. Jonah 2:9; Ephesians 2:1-10; Matthew 19:25-16; John 3:16-18; 2Corinthians 5:18-21; 1Peter 1:3-5.

### **A. Father**

God the Father planned this salvation. His plan was to send His Son to pay for the sins of those who believe on Christ to be saved. His plan was to send someone to present the gospel and for the Holy Spirit to work in the sinner's heart that he might respond with conviction of sin and faith in Christ to save. His plan was to choose some to be saved by faith in Christ even though they don't deserve it. This salvation is freely by God's grace. This grace is unmerited favour from God. Freely means that this salvation is without any cause by man. Acts 13:48; Romans 3:21-31; Ephesians 1:3-6; 2Thessalonians 2:13-14; 1Peter 1:18-20.

### **B. Son**

God the Son who is Jesus Christ came into the world to save His people from their sins. Only God could pay the just punishment for man's sin. Because of love God came to pay the just

price demanded by God's law. As God He could not die so He became a man. He was God and man. He lived a perfect life and then died for the believers' sins and arose from the dead. This message is called the Gospel which means good news. He was the believer's substitute. Because of this His righteousness is charged to the believer and His payment for sin. The believer becomes righteous in Christ His substitute. John 1:1-3, 10-14; 2Corinthians 5:19, 21; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:26-38; 23:47; Hebrew 4:15; 1John 2:1; 1Corinthians 15:1-8; Acts 1:8-12.

### **C. Holy Spirit**

God the Spirit who is called the Holy Spirit or Ghost applies this salvation planned by the Father and paid for by the Son. The Spirit leads believers to tell people how to be saved. This message is the Gospel about the salvation of Jesus Christ. The Spirit works within the person to be saved so that he is convicted of his sin and believes on Christ as his Saviour. This work in the soul by the Spirit that brings new life is called being born-again. After this the Spirit leads believers to grow spiritually by studying the Bible and following it. He leads the believer to pray and to be baptized and become a member of a New Testament church. He leads believers to give. He leads believers to worship Him. He leads the believer to live for Him and to serve Him. He keeps the believer so that he cannot lose his salvation. He leads the believer to tell others about Christ. At the second coming of Christ all believers will receive a new perfect body.

Redemption means Christ has died for the believer's sins and purchased the believer out of the slavery of sin. Regeneration or the new birth means the believer has received a new nature and life to be in God's family and to live like a child of God. Adoption means that the believer has been made a child of God legally. Justification means that the believer has been declared righteous because of Christ's work of salvation for him.

Sanctification means that the believer has been set apart or dedicated to God to live for Him according to the Bible. Glorification means that the believer will receive a new body like Christ's body which will not become sick or weak or die. He will receive it at the second coming.

The earth will be made perfect and new after the second coming for Christ and all believers. The curse of sin will be removed from the earth which was caused by Adam and Eve's sin. All babies and those like babies in mind all their life who die in that condition will be saved by Christ's salvation. 2Samuel 12:23; Job 19:23-27; Psalm 23:6; Acts 5:3-4; John 3:5-8; 10:26-29; 14:1-2; 1Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2Thessalonians 2:13; James 1:18; 1Peter 1:22-23; Mark 1:15; Acts 16:30-31; Romans 1:16; 3:24; 5:1; 8:19-22, 28-34; 1Corinthians 15:51-58.

### **Conclusion: Review Questions & Answers**

1. Why can't man save himself? because he is dead spiritually
2. Who is the only one who can save him? God
3. Why did God provide a plan of salvation for man? because of His love, mercy and grace
4. Why did Jesus have to die for our sins? because God is righteous and just
5. Is God obligated to save any sinner? no
6. Give three ways the Father planned salvation? He sent Jesus to save and someone to give the gospel, and some to believe.
7. What does grace mean? unmerited favour
8. What does freely mean? without a cause on man's part
9. Who was Jesus? He was God and a perfect man.
10. What did He do to save us? He lived a perfect life and died for our sins and arose from the dead.
11. What is Jesus to the believer? He is their substitute and saviour.

12. How does the believer become righteous? by Christ's righteousness and payment for sin
13. What does the Spirit do to save us? He leads someone to give us the gospel and He works within us.
14. The Spirit keeps us from losing our salvation. T or F
15. What does the Spirit lead us to do after believing? read the Bible, pray, join a N.T. church, worship, live for Christ, serve Christ, give, witness
16. What will the believer receive at the second coming? a new perfect body
17. What does redemption mean? Jesus purchased believers out of the salvery of sin.
18. What does regeneration mean? The Spirit has given a new nature and life to become a child of God.
19. What does adoption mean? The believer has been made a child of God legally.
20. What does justification mean? The believer is declared righteous before God because of faith in Jesus.
21. What does sanctification mean? The believer is dedicated to God to live for Him.
22. What does glorification mean? The believer will received a new perfect body at the second coming.

## **VI. The New Testament Church**

### **Introduction**

Believers are to carry the message of salvation to the lost. The Lord's plan to do this is the New Testament church. This is a plan that teaches us how believers are to work together to reach the lost with the message of salvation. It is a plan to teach how to serve together, worship together and to fellowship together.

Before Jesus' first coming they did these things at the altar with their families from the days of Adam and Eve. After Israel was organized as the Lord's nation they were taught to do this at the Tabernacle and then at the Temple. 1Timothy 3:15; Matthew 24:1-2; 28:18-20.

### **A. Meaning**

When Jesus began the first church during His ministry the word church meant assembly. This was its only meaning during New Testament days. The organization called the church which was to serve Him would assemble regularly to serve, fellowship and worship. For this reason it was called an assembly or church. It was an assembly of believers and was referred to as the disciples at times, Acts 1:15; 2:41, 47. Jesus began only one kind of church. When new churches were begun they were to be of the same kind as the first one begun by Jesus. The characteristics of this one kind is given in the following division. Assembly in Acts 19:32, 39, 41 is the same word in the Greek that is translated church in other places. Matthew 16:18; 18:17; Acts 14:23; Revelation 1:4; 2:7; etc.

### **B. Characteristics**

The membership of this kind of church was to be made up of those who believed in Jesus as their Saviour and followed Him in baptism. The way of salvation the members believed in had to be the kind taught in the Bible. The baptism had to be the same kind of baptism taught in the New Testament, Acts 1:15; 2:41, 47.

The government of a New Testament church was to be under the headship of Jesus Christ. Each decision should be according to His will. His will should be sought in the Bible by prayer and the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Then the members should vote to make the decision. Each New Testament church should make its own decisions. There was no organization over it. Each church was self-governing under Jesus Christ, Ephesians 1:22-23;

5:23-24; Acts 1:15-26; 6:2-6; 14:23; 1Corinthians 5:1-13.

The ordained permanent offices of a New Testament church were pastors and deacons. Pastors were also called bishops and elders. The qualifications and duties for these offices are given in the New Testament. Only qualified men were to be put in these offices. They were to be dedicated believers with a good testimony, sound in doctrine, having talents to do the duties required by the office, 1Timothy 3:1-13; Acts 6:2-6; Titus 1:5-9. In the first century there were temporary offices which were to pass away after the New Testament was completed. These offices were apostles and prophets. No one has been qualified for these offices since then and they are not necessary now because we have the New Testament, 1Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 2:20. Churches

may choose members to do other jobs needed in the church such as teachers, treasurers, clerks, etc.

The serving purpose of a New Testament church was to go into all the world and make disciples, baptise them and then teach them to observe all things. This is called the great commission. The disciples were to be made by witnessing, teaching or preaching the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ, Matthew 28:16-20; 1Timothy 3:15. This salvation is explained under the doctrine of The Only Salvation. The baptism to be practiced was the immersion of a believer in Jesus Christ to picture His death, burial and resurrection. The one baptizing should be one authorized by a New Testament church. Baptism does not save or help save; it is a testimony of the believer that he believes Jesus died for his sins, was buried and arose from the dead that he might be saved and that he desires to live a new life for Jesus, Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12; John 3:23; Acts 2:41; 8:38-39;

The believer should be taught by the Bible to observe all things the believer is commanded to do. He should be taught to turn from sin to righteous living, Romans 12:1-2. He should study his Bible and pray each day, 2Timothy 2:15; 1Thessalonians 5:17-18. He should attend his church regularly to learn, worship and fellowship, Hebrews 10:25. He should use his talents for the Lord to serve, 1Peter 4:10-11. He should support his church by tithes and offerings, Malachi 3:8-10; 1Timothy 3:15; 1Corinthians 16:2. He should observe the Lord's Supper in his church. The Lord's supper is an ordinance of a New Testament church for its members in which unleavened bread and wine or fruit of the vine are used to picture what Christ did to save us. The bread pictures His body which was nailed to the cross to suffer for our sins and the wine pictures His blood which was shed to pay for our sins. This should be observed regularly until His second coming, Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; 1Corinthians 11:23-34.

The church was to be disciplined according to the New Testament. The regular teaching is to discipline all in a positive way as to what each member should do or not do. When a member will not follow the teaching of the Bible then the procedure of the Bible to correct the member should be followed. The procedure to follow is given in Matthew 18:15-17. The procedure should always be carried out after prayer and in a Christ-like spirit.

### **C. History**

Jesus began the first church during His ministry at His first coming. This church became known as the church at Jerusalem. It was an example of the kind of church Jesus began. Other churches to follow should have the same basic characteristics. Jesus promised that this kind of church would never go out of existence until Jesus' second coming, Acts 1:15, 21-22; Matthew 16:18; 28:18-20; Ephesians 3:21.

This kind of church was empowered and publicly accredited on the Day of Pentecost after Jesus ascended to heaven. It was baptized or immersed in the Holy Spirit and had tongues

of fire which appeared on each member and each member began to speak in a foreign language about Jesus and His wonderful works. This was a way of showing to the world that this kind of church has God's approval. This only appeared once to the church at Jerusalem and then later once to believing Gentiles to show that they are approved to be members also of a New Testament church. This was an approval by God of every church which would come later that was like the Jerusalem church. The tongues received continued as a reminder of God's approval until the New Testament was completed and that generation passed away. The Bible teaches it was to cease which it did, Acts 2:1-13, 33; 10:44-48; 11:15-18; 1Corinthians 13:8-10.

The churches in the New Testament began to carry out the great commission in the first century and it has continued ever since. In spite of persecutions and false teachings to try and cause all New Testament churches to go out of existence, New Testament churches have continued until now and will till Jesus comes again. These kind of churches have been called by different names throughout history. The most common name has been Anabaptist. In recent times they are usually called Baptist.

#### **Conclusion: Review Questions & Answers**

1. What is God's plan for believers to serve, worship and fellowship together called? a church
2. What kind of church should it be? a New Testament church
3. How did believers serve, worship and fellowship together before Christ came? altar, tabernacle, temple.
4. What did the word church mean in New Testament days? assembly or congregation
5. What was its membership requirement? believe in Christ and New Testament baptism
6. Who is the head of each of these churches? Jesus Christ
7. Who makes the decisions in this kind of church? the members
8. How should they make the decisions? by each member voting after prayer seeking the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the teaching of the Bible
9. Is there any organization over a New Testament church? no, only Christ is its head
10. What are the two permanent offices of a New Testament church? pastor and deacon
11. What were the two temporary offices? apostles and prophets
12. When did these offices cease? after the New Testament was finished
13. Can other necessary offices be started? yes
14. What is the purpose of a New Testament church? carry out great commission
15. What is baptism? immersion of a believer to picture death, burial and resurrection of Christ by the authority of a New Testament church
16. What should a church member do? live for Christ, read Bible and pray every day, attend church, use talents for Lord, support his church with tithes and offerings, observe Lord's Supper
17. What is the Lord's Supper? a church ordinance for its members to picture Christ's death using unleavened bread and wine to picture His body and blood
18. What is positive discipline? teaching believers to live for Christ according to the Bible
19. What is corrective discipline? members are corrected according to procedure in Matthew 18
20. When was the first New Testament church begun? during Jesus' first coming
21. How long was this kind of church to continue? until the second coming
22. When was this kind of church accredited? on the Day of Pentecost after the ascension
23. Give two names given to New Testament churches since the first century? Anabaptist and Baptist

## VII. The Second Coming

### Introduction

After the fall of Adam and Eve God promised in the Old Testament that Christ would come to save His people and to rule forever. Many promises were made about the second coming when He would rule forever on a perfect earth. In the New Testament more promises were made. These promises are about what would happen before, at and after the second coming, Genesis 3:15; Jude 14; Isaiah 9:6-7; 53; Matthew 24; etc.

#### A. Before the 2nd Coming

God gave Daniel an outline of history from his day to the second coming of Jesus Christ and some important events which would take place in the outline. The outline is divided according to the Gentile powers who would dominate Israel and other nations from Daniel's day to the second coming of Jesus. This period is called "the Times of the Gentiles." The main event in the outline is the first coming of Jesus when He would die for our sins and arise from the dead. Some events before His first coming which would cause trouble for believers are given and where they would come in the outline. The time after the first coming to the second coming is called a time of great trouble or tribulation. Jesus taught in the New Testament some events which would take place in this tribulation. There would be false christs, false teachers, wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes, the antichrist, etc. The gospel would be preached in all the world and believers would suffer persecutions and other problems. The temple would be destroyed and unbelieving Jews would be scattered and suffer. All of these events have now been fulfilled. God told believers ahead of time what to expect so that they would not be surprised, overwhelmed and discouraged. They can be encouraged that God knows the future and tells the troubles and the blessings of our future. Believers are to continue being faithful in troubles and looking for His coming and His blessings, Daniel 2; 7; 8; 9 and 11:2-12:4; Matthew 24:1-28; 2Thessalonians 2:1-12; 1Timothy 4:1-6; 2Timothy 3:1-9; 1John 2:18.

**Daniel 2 [ Gold I Silver I Brass I Iron & Iron & Clay I Great Mountain  
Explained [BabylonI Persia I Greece I Rome Unified & Rome Divided I Lord's Kingdom  
I I I I I  
I Trouble 1st Coming Trouble I  
Nebuchadnezzar 2nd Coming  
of Christ**

#### B. At the 2nd Coming

Jesus will come in the clouds to rule over the earth as He ascended. The souls of the saved who have died before will come with Him and their bodies will be resurrected to perfect bodies and the saved who are living at that time will be changed to new perfect bodies. The saved will then be gathered or raptured to Jesus and be taken to a safe place, heaven. The saved will then be with Jesus forever. Then Jesus will destroy this earth by fire and make a new earth. This period of destroying is called a tribulation of fire. At the end of this tribulation Jesus and the saved will return to this new earth, Isaiah 26:19-21; Matthew 24:29-31, 35-42; Acts 1:9-12; 1Corinthians 15:51-58; 1Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2Thessalonians 1:6-10; 2Peter 3:9-16; Revelation 19:11-21.

#### C. After the 2nd Coming

After Jesus and the saved return to the earth a period of time begins called the millennium

or thousand years. In the millennium the saved will be judged and rewarded for their service for Jesus after they were saved. After the millennium Satan, the fallen angels and the lost will be judged by God at His great white throne for their sins and put in the lake of fire forever. After this the saved will live with the Lord Jesus Christ forever in a perfect world, Revelation 20:1-22:5; 1Corinthians 3:8-15; 6:2-3; 2Corinthians 5:10-11.

### **Conclusion: Review Questions & Answers**

1. Whom did God use to give an outline of history to the 2nd coming? Daniel
2. Name the four Gentile powers in the outline. Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome
3. Some events before the 1st Coming will cause trouble for believers. T or F
4. What is the time from the 1st Coming to the 2nd Coming called? The Great Tribulation
5. What is the most important event in the Times of the Gentiles? The 1st Coming
6. List 8 troubles in the Times of the Gentiles after the 1st coming. false christs, false teachers, wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes, persecutions, the antichrist
7. Where would the gospel be preached at this time? all the world
8. What would happen to the temple? It would be destroyed.
9. What would happen to unbelieving Jews? scattered and persecuted
10. Why does God tell about the troubles? to keep believers from being surprised, overwhelmed and discouraged
11. What will happen at the 2nd Coming? Christ will come as He ascended, the saved receive a new body, then gathered to Christ and taken to heaven, the earth will be destroyed by fire; a new earth will be made and Christ and the saved will return to earth.
12. What will happen after the 2nd Coming? The judgment of the saved will take place for rewards in the millennium, after that Satan and the lost will be judged and sent to the lake of fire, after that Christ and the saved will live on the perfect earth forever.

### **Conclusion**

The great doctrines are taught in our Bible or Scriptures; it is the source and authority for them. Our Bible claims to come from God and is true. But, other religions have their holy books or "Bibles" which teach their doctrines. These doctrines are very different yet they all teach about the most important matters in life, the individual's eternal salvation and the kind of life and service he should have. The truthfulness of these doctrines depends on the truthfulness of these books. How can we know which book is true?

Our Bible was written by prophets who claim that their message came from God and is true. God gave them their messages and He also gave them divine signs to prove that their messages came from Him and are true. Since God knows all and cannot lie, their signs had to be 100% accurate. Their miracles must always come to pass and every prediction had to come to pass. The people living in the day of a true prophet could witness his divine signs and accept his message as coming from God. False prophets could be detected because they didn't have divine signs. Some false prophets might have some signs beyond the ability of men to do but some signs were found to be frauds and complete failures. They were not 100% accurate. Satan and the fallen angels have power beyond man and can enable a man to do some unusual things but Satan and his angels have only limited power and do lie. God has all knowledge, all power and cannot lie.

Generations after the true prophets died could know that our Bible, the Scripture, is from God and true because the long term predictions they made have all been fulfilled at the time predicted. There are many predictions made in the Bible and all have been fulfilled but the ones

which have to do with the second coming and after. Some Bible scholars say the number of fulfilled predictions are over 2,000. Only our Bible has this divine sign, 100% fulfillment of all predictions but the ones concerning the second coming and after. The holy books of the largest religions in the world do not have any fulfilled predictions to prove they are true. Our Bible is unique among all books. It claims to be from God and true and it has 100% fulfillment of all predictions to prove the claim. We have a unique Scripture.

We also have a unique Saviour and a unique Salvation. No other religion has such a Saviour. Jesus Christ our Saviour is not only a perfect man but God also. He lived a perfect life and did many miracles of all kinds before many witnesses with no failures. He predicted His death and resurrection in three days. His resurrection was proved to be true by many witnesses seeing

Him for forty days after His resurrection, Luke 24:30-48; Acts 1:3; 1Corinthians 15:1-9; etc.

His Salvation is unique. Other religions teach that man must do many works or perform many ceremonies to be saved. Man must earn his salvation according to their teachings. The Salvation taught in the Bible is a gift given by God to those who believe on Jesus Christ. Christ paid for the gift by living a perfect life and dying to pay the just penalty for the believer's sins. The believer receives it by faith. Faith or believing has no merit in it. God's gift is given by His grace and the believer does no works or ceremonies to earn it. This Salvation is unique.

Some may say all religions are basically alike but this is not true. The true religion is very different from all other religions. It is unique in many ways. Three of these ways is our Scripture, our Saviour and our Salvation. The Great Doctrines of the Bible reveal the true religion and it is very important to study them and to follow them, John 4:19-26.