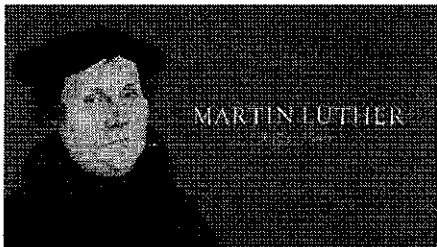




What Do Lutherans Believe?



We believe that the Reformer Martin Luther interpreted and defined the Word of God, in its true meaning. He wrote an average of 17 pages a day and he argued, debated and tried to create the proper understanding of scripture in opposition to Catholicism. In the years to follow other great theologians expanded on his work and at times clarifying and even questioning his conclusions. Today there are approximately 9 groups that call themselves Lutheran. We follow the Missouri Synod (LC-MS). It follows a balanced and consistent expiation of the word of God. Some are more conservative embedded in Law and Doctrine and the others are extremely liberal to the point that Luther's beliefs are unrecognizable.

We must remember that a Pastor can alter these teachings and we should always be careful and knowledgeable of what scripture actually says and not "interpretations."

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Saved
By
Grace

RESOURCES

Doctrinal Studies can be found in the following resources:

Concordia Study Bible

“Confessions” Book of Tappert or by Kolb
This book contains the defenses for our faith and letter
written by Lutheran and Melanchthon

“Confutation” Found on line. It is the Catholics churches response to the
confessions

Exhaustive Concordance: On line, Programs and in print

Commentary By Lenski

Christian Dogmatics By Pieper

Luther’s Works 54 Volumes. Other abbreviated versions as well.

Greek Lexicon

There are 503 years of dogmatic’s available. Make sure of the author and you will find thousands of scholarly works.

Bible Overview

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>BOOK</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
TORAH		
Pentateuch First 5 Books	Genesis	Creation, Fall, Flood Babel
		Abraham, Isaac, Jacob Joseph
	Exodus	Moses
	Leviticus	Moses receives the Law
	Numbers	Numbering of the people & story during this period of time
	Deuteronomy	Recapitulation/retelling of the story
OCCUPATION	Joshua	Entering the Promise Land
	Judges	Dividing up the Promised Land
	Ruth	
KINGSHIP	All the rest	The period of the Kings from about 1000BC to Jesus
GOSPELS	Mt. Mk. Lk. Jn	Life, death & resurrection of Jesus Christ
ACTS	Acts, Luke II	Beginning of the church and what took place after Jesus death. The places referenced are the remaining New Testament books.
LETTERS	Rom-Rev	The rest of the New Testament are letters written, to, by or for people and churches.
Septuagint	Greek version of the Old Testament	
Vulgate	Latin Version of the Bible	
Apocrypha	Inter-testament writings that do not reference Jesus but contain various stories. Catholics include them in their Bible.	
Gospel of Judas and Joseph	4th century writings that we do not accredit authentic. There is no proof and therefore should be taken cautiously.	
Dead Sea Scrolls	BC writings that were found in a cave and to have come from the Hasmonean culture. It contains the book of Isaiah and it is almost identical to the Isaiah we have.	
BIBLE:	We do NOT have any originals of the Bible. We have the Leningrad Codex and a variety of pieces, number into the thousands.	

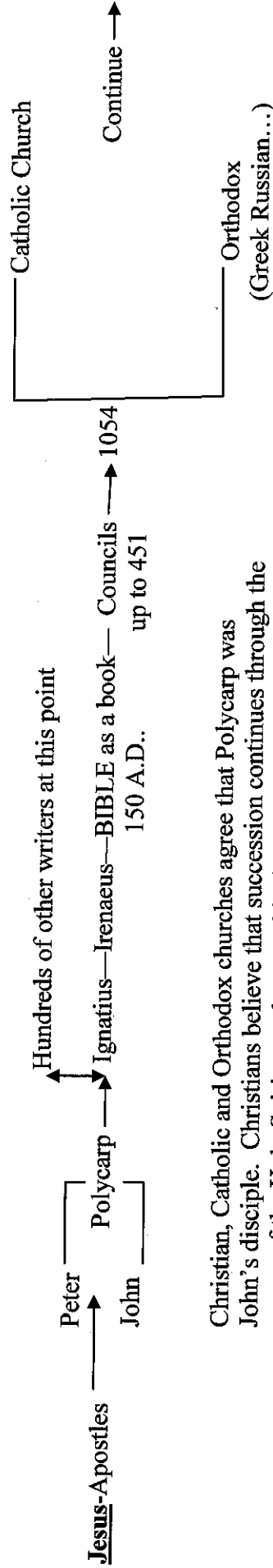
Old Testament dating back to 240 BC, New Testament dating back 30 AD.

**Jesus lived from 4 BC to 29 AD. BC Before Christ AD In The Year of Our Lord
Jesus was born before his birth date due to a dating error. It's too late to fix now but our date in actually 4 years older!**

THE WORD OF GOD PASSED ON THROUGH MAN AND THE CHURCH IT PRODUCED!

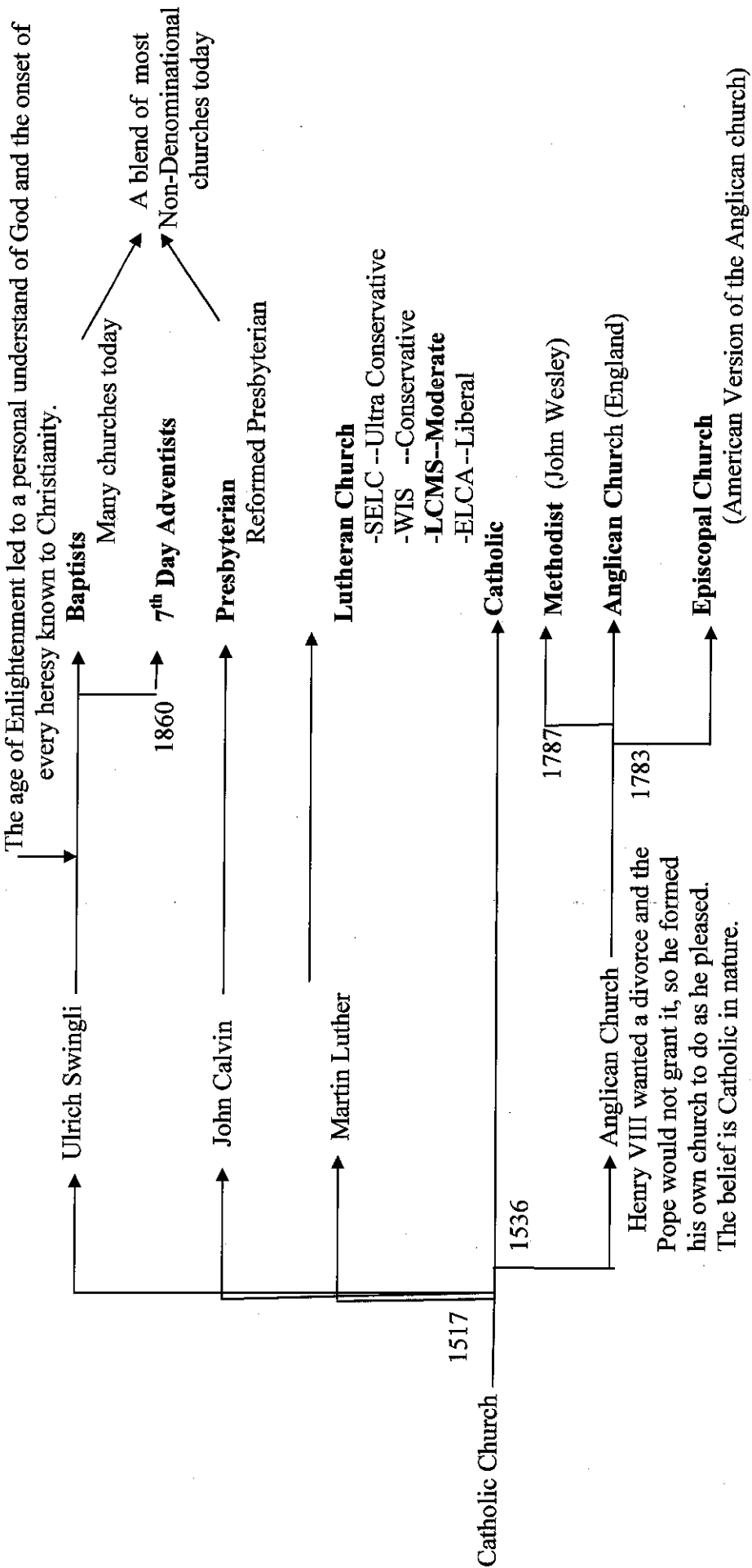
The Catholic and Orthodox Church explains the passing on of succession from Peter to the Pope through a letter from Eusebius. Eusebius states that a young man spent three days with Peter and the "Pope" concludes that, that person was Polycarp. The Pope also states that the child that sat on Jesus' Lap was Ignatius. We do not say they are untrue but that they are not reliable writings and should therefore not become doctrine.

The church was to be built upon the Rock (Petra) and Peter (Petros) was given charge, but it is not built on Peter. Isaiah 26:4: Jesus is the rock eternal...



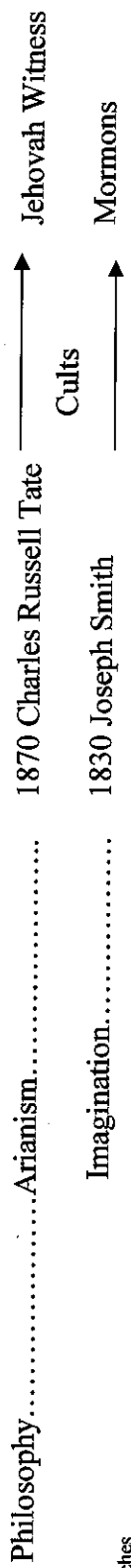
Christian, Catholic and Orthodox churches agree that Polycarp was John's disciple. Christians believe that succession continues through the power of the Holy Spirit, not the actual laying on of hands from one person to the next. Therefore, all Pastors hold the charge of the church by the power of the Holy Spirit and not apostolic succession as the Catholic's believe.

Note: Throughout time there has always been a multitude of writers. Churches consisted of a variety of individuals and various people who wrote and some created doctrines. What is shown above is a basic starting point of how the word of God was passed on. Many of these writers overlapped each other and had their own students, scribes and predecessors.



Orthodox Church----- (Has continued on for centuries under the rule of Governments)

Imagine every possible combination and potential split and you have a synopsis of all the churches today. There are hundreds of theologians not mentioned within this timeline. Above is a cursory view of the basic formation of the various religious groups. The key to differentiating is there fundamental belief systems.



Brief Explanation:

History of Religion: The Lutheran religion is the first protestant church. It was Martin Luther who set the stage for what would become an unprecedented movement in Christianity and affect our world for centuries to come.

Scripture: Lutherans use a balanced form of interpretation. Scripture interprets scripture!

Trinity: We believe that God is three persons in one person.

Original Sin: We are by nature born sinful.

Freewill: We believe that it is God who gives us faith. We can only reject the gift not accept it. We are free to make all decisions in life, but it is God who give us faith

Predestination/Foreknowledge: God predestines all people to be saved and at the same time foreknows who will reject him and who will not.

Faith: We are saved by Grace through faith and this is not from ourselves.

Justification: The blood of Jesus makes us right (just) before God. "Our sins are hidden in Christ Jesus."

Sanctification: The life we live in response to God's tremendous love and sacrifice for us.

Baptism: Baptism unites us to Christ's death and resurrection and makes us heirs to Christ. It has the power to save and forgive our sins.

Communion: It is the real presence of Jesus Christ, in, under and with the bread and the wine. It has the power to forgive sins.

The Church: The church is the body of Christ on earth and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. We are called through the church to work and serve. Although the church is the people, it gathers in a local place designated for God and his worshippers.

Our Church: Our goal is to produce a sincere, genuine church without phony facades, immersed in God's word and his grace for all people.

Rapture: There is one rapture and everything is gone. We do not believe in 2 or 4 returns of Christ and him secretly taking people away, leaving others behind.

Scripture

We believe that the word of God is inspired by God as he spoke through the writers. We believe that the word of God is without error. If there are perceived errors it is because we do not understand either, the intent, language, context or expression chosen by God. As Lutherans we hold to a historical, grammatical, literal, metaphorical view of scripture. We accept the most obvious and literal meaning of each, story and or word. We uphold only the oldest Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek texts as the true word of God. Statistics show that all translations lose 40% of the content when translated. Therefore, any translation is valid to use, if to your liking, but when in debate or argument we resort to the original language only.

1. PASTORS MUST KNOW, TRANSLATE AND INTERPRET THE WORD CORRECTLY:

2 Timothy 2 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

2. ALL SCRIPTURE NEW AND OLD TESTAMENT IS FROM GOD:

2 Timothy 3 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 3 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

2 Peter 1 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.

Revelation 22 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. 19And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

3. THE WORD OF GOD PREACHED RIGHTLY HAS POWER IN AND OF ITSELF. IT IS NOT THE PASTORS MESSAGE, BUT GOD'S MESSAGE TO YOU.

Hebrews 4 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Matthew 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'[1] "

4. THERE ARE THREE WORDS USED FOR "THE WORD" IN GREEK. GRAPHA: WRITTEN WORD, RAYMA THE SPOKEN WORD, LOGUS THE ESSENCE OF GOD.

John 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,[1] who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. **LOGUS**

5. IT IS THE WORK OF A PASTOR TO TEACH GOD'S WORD AND BE DEDICATED TO IT'S PROPER UNDERSTANDING AND TEACHING, AS LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, INFLUENCED BY HOW IT HAS BEEN UNDERSTOOD BY THOSE CLOSEST TO THE TIME OF JESUS, FROM IT'S LITERAL TRANSLATION IN THE CONTEXT IN WHICH IT WAS INTENDED.

Acts 6 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

Ephesians 6 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Matthew 24 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

John 6 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

John 15 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

Matthew 24 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

6. WHY DOES SCRIPTURE SEEM TO HAVE "CONTRADICTION OR ERROS, AS IN, PEOPLE DON'T REMEMBER, OR THAT ONE PERSON SAID JESUS SPOKE ON THE PLAIN AND ANOTHER SAID ON A MOUNTAIN?"

1 Corinthians 1:16(Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) Lapse of memory?

1 Corinthians 7:10To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. **12**To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. **25**Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. Lord still inspired.

God worked through the mind of man incorporating his being into every book. God instructs them by his spirit to tell the story and they told the story as they observed it. If they were standing on the top of the hill he went down to the plain, if they were at the bottom of the hill he went up on the mountain.

The Trinity

We believe that God is three distinct persons in one person. The best, but not perfect analogy is a candle flame. You can separate a flame to two other candles and they all remain equal. You can blow out two of the three flames and it does not change the remaining flame.

1. JESUS IS FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN:

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

Greek: In beginning was **the** Word, and **the** Word was with God, and God was **the** word.

Articles the key!

To be as the J.W. say it would have to be written: *and the word was a God.*

OR

and a God was the word. But you never put an indefinite article in the front!

John 10:33 "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

John 8:58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

Emphatic "I Am" Greek: Eimi = I am; ego = I Ego Eimi = I, I am. An
emphatic and only used when Christ reveals himself as God, the
great I am.

Exodus 3 God said to Moses, "I am who I am . ^[1] This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

1 Corinthians 2:8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Colossians 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,

Luke 1:35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Romans 9:5 Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

Matthew 11 "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

John 1 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, ^[1] ^[2] who is at the Father's side, has made him known

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FULLY GOD

Acts 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

John 14 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Acts 28 They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: "The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah the prophet:

John 14 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—

1 Peter 1 (Prophets) trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

John 20 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

1 John 5 We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true--even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

Titus 2 while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Acts 5 ³Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

John 10 (All Powerful) ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

John 21 (All Knowing) ¹⁷The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Matthew 28 (All Present) ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

THE VARIOUS HERESIES THAT HAVE EXISTED OVER THE YEARS AS TO WHO GOD IS IN REGARD TO PERSONS:

Subordinationism:	Three unequal divine natures or essence
Tritheism:	Three equal divine essence
Dynamic Monarchianism:	Father alone is God. Christ infused with God. Holy Spirit: God in the Apostles.
Modelism:	Different modes of God

ORIGINAL SIN

We believe that we are created as human beings and our heritage passes back to Adam and Eve and therefore, possess their characteristics (DNA). Their DNA was by nature sinful. This means that by nature we are selfish. We desire to be God and we desire for ourselves above all things. This is called "concupiscent." We do not believe we improve our selfish nature, as some do, but get better at hiding it. Therefore, it is right to say that we are by nature sinful! This is original sin. Consequently through our baptism we are connected to Christ and although we possess the sin nature of Eve, due to Christ's redemptive work our heritage stops with Christ. We are heirs! This is the dual nature of every human!

1. WE ARE SINFUL FROM BIRTH. BABIES DESIRE ONLY TO BE TAKEN CARE OF AND ARE BY NATURE SELFISH.

Psalms 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Genesis 8:21 The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

Hebrews 2:14-17 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

Romans 7:5 For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death.

Romans 7:18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

2. WE DO NOT IMPROVE UPON OUR SINFUL NATURE BUT RATHER FIGHT AGAINST IT.

Romans 3:22-23 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Romans 9:16 It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

3. THE SIN NATURE IS ONE THAT IS ALWAYS PRESENT

Romans 7:8 But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead.

Romans 7:21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

Galatians 3:29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 4:6-7 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "*Abba*, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

FREEWILL

We believe that we do not have “freewill” in spiritual matters. In other words we say that it is God who gives us faith and sustains it. We do not “accept” Jesus but rather be thankful that he accepts us. We believe that we can deny faith, but God has written it upon our hearts. It is not about what we can and cannot do, but rather what God has done! (See doctrine of faith)

1. GOD GIVES US FAITH

Jeremiah 31:33-34 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Hebrews 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1 Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

Ephesians 2:8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

2. WE CAN REJECT GOD'S GIFT

Hebrews 6:4-6 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

PREDESTINATION AND FOREKNOWLEDGE

We believe that God has created all things and is all knowing. He desires all men to be saved and yet knows who will not be saved. This is a difficult theology to comprehend. How can God create with foreknowledge and therefore consequently predestine?

1. GOD DESIRES ALL MEN TO BE SAVED

1 Timothy 2:3-4 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

2. GOD KNOWS WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO BEFORE WE DO IT

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Acts 2:23 This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

1 Peter 1:2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

FAITH

The Third Article: Sanctification

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

We believe that due to our sinful nature, and as scripture reveals, we do not have the capability to ask Jesus into our hearts, but rather God writes the knowledge of Him on our hearts and we merely need not to reject it. There is a natural bond between the Creator and His creation that "makes" us his own. It is a hired hand who expects his workers to prove themselves. The owner claims His own. It is our rebellious nature that produces in us, like young teens, to reject the Fathers desire and go off on our own.

In all matters of faith: TO GOD BE THE GLORY ALONE!

The following verses are irrefutably clear, that faith does no come from us.

Romans 9:16 It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

1 Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Hebrews 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jeremiah 31:34³⁴ No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Ephesians 4:22-24 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds;²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

1 Corinthians 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Ephesians 4:18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

Romans 8:7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

But what about those who reject scripture and believe we do have the capability to decide for ourselves?

Romans 10:9 *That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* Confess in Greek is "homologumina" meaning one speak or to echo. 1 John 1:8-10 concludes if we say we have not sin we make Him out to be a liar. Why is God a liar? Because He said we are sinful and therefore affirms the teaching that confess means to echo what God has said of us.

Romans 10:13 *for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* ...**Romans 10:17** *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.* **Romans 10:18** *But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did: "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."* **Romans 10:21** *But concerning Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people."* Romans 10 describes the tension between what God desired for His people, who would hear and believe, but they did not and therefore God came to claim them as his own. He "drew them unto himself."

JUSTIFICATION

Justification is to be made right or just. Some say, "Just as if I never sinned." We believe that we are justified freely by God's grace. This is a core doctrine for how we are able to be saved. Note the doctrine of faith. We are saved by faith, but this too is from God.

1. WE ARE JUSTIFIED BY GOD THROUGH GRACE IN FAITH, WHICH IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

Romans 3:24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

Acts 13:37-39 But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay. "Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.

Titus 3:7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is a word we use to describe the life we live in response to Christ's sacrifice. We live a sanctified life, in response, to say thank you for saving me. This is different from saying we are good so that we get saved. God's redemption is a saving act, we can reject that gift, but otherwise is ours and we then live in thanks for what he did.

Colossians 1:10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

Ephesians 5:1-2 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

BAPTISM

We believe that baptism is a work of God in our lives as he places in us his Holy Spirit, which endows us with faith, gifts and power and unites us to his death and resurrection making us heirs to his kingdom, fulfilling the promise of Abraham. It does not therefore depend on intellect, but God's gracious gift and we humbly bring his people young and hold to receive this gift. It is always their freewill that at anytime in their life to reject this gift and experience a life and eternity without God.

1. BAPTISM IS COMMANDED BY GOD:

Matthew 28:18-Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

2. WE RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH BAPTISM & IT IS FOR CHILDREN:

Acts 2:38-39 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."

3. FAITH COMES FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH ITS RECEPTION IN BAPTISM

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

1 Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

4. BAPTISM IS A CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART.

Colossians 2:11-12 In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

5. BAPTISM IS CONSIDERED A DOCTRINE:

Hebrews 6:1-2 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

6. BAPTISM UNITES US TO CHRIST DEATH AND RESURRECTION. WHY IS AN ENTIRE CHAPTER DEDICATED TO BAPTISM IF IS SYMBOLIC?

Romans 6:3-4 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

7. WHY IS BAPTISM PLACED IN THIS LIST IF IT IS SYMBOLIC?

Ephesians 4:4-6 There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

8. BAPTISM SAVES YOU.

1 Peter 3:21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

9. THROUGH BAPTISM THE LINEAGE OF DEATH FROM EVE IS BROKEN AND WE BECOME HEIRS TO CHRIST.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Galatians 3:26-29 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

10. WHY DO WE BAPTIZE INFANTS?

1. It is commanded by God to baptize everyone.
2. The promise is for all ages.

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Acts 2:38-39 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Mark 10:15 I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Received (δεξιηται, dek-a-tai, root dek-o-mai,) middle= I receive myself

Child (παιδια, pedia = specifically "infant") An infant, according to Jesus, is able to receive unto himself the kingdom of God.

11. DID NOT RE-BAPTIZE WHEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NATURAL TO DO SO:

Nowhere is scripture is anyone re-baptized in Jesus' baptism!

Acts 8:15-18 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money.

12. THE AGE OF REASONING IS FOOLISHNESS!

1. Children know right from wrong as infants
2. "Accepting Jesus" is a maturity that seldom adults are capable of finding.
3. True faith cannot come from sinful man. We are flawed.

Romans 3:22-24 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,** ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Genesis 8:21 The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though **every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood.** And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

Psalms 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

John 3:6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

1 John 1:8-10 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

John 5:41 "I do not accept praise from men,

13. HISTORICALLY THE EARLY CHURCH FIRST CENTURY BAPTIZED INFANTS!

COMMUNION

We believe that communion is the true body and blood of Jesus. His presence is in, under and with the bread and the wine. Scripture does not tell us how, it just says that this "is" (estin). We consider it a sacrament because scripture says to do this for the forgiveness of sins. Scripture also says that to not recognize the body and blood of Christ would be to drink judgment on ourselves. Therefore, common is the "real presence" of Christ as a visible means of grace for the forgiveness of sins.

1. BASIC BELIEFS OF COMMUNION:

Catholic	Transubstantiation –Changes into– Priest says: Hoc et carne pocem (Hoc es poc es)- Magician later used this.
Luther-	Lutheran. Real presence in, under with the bread and wine.
Calvin -	Presbyterian. Christ is present in a spiritual sense.
Zwingli-	Baptist/non-denominational's etc. It was a symbol of our faith. "The infinite cannot possess the finite."
Wesley-	Methodist. Real presence as Holy Mystery.
England-	Puritans, Anglicans, Episcopalians. Variety of beliefs.

2. WHERE DID THE LORD'S SUPPER COME FROM?

The Passover Meal!

Matthew 26:18 He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'"

3. WHY DO WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS HIS REAL BODY & BLOOD?

(See Study)

He says it is. Is "estin"

Consequence is damnation

Paul uses Eu-Logus for the Eu-charis Good word... Good Grace

Can't have Koinenia without presence

4. WHAT MUST I DO TO RECEIVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

I Corinthians 10:14-17 / I Corinthians 11:24-32

1. Confess

2. Recognize Christ's body and blood

Participation is koinenia in Greek. It is a participatory fellowship. Have to be present

What is the consequence of not receiving the Body and Blood correctly? I Cor. 11:27-32

Ask the question, when was the last time something symbolic produced damnation?

5. HOW DOES THE GREEK SUGGEST REAL PRESENCE?

Luke 22: 19-22

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying,



What does the "this" refer to in Greek?

This is my body given for you; do this I remembrance of me.

NO. Actually the this refers to the body. The body and this are Neuter. Bread is masculine.

What does this mean?

1. Luke had perfect Greek except this one place. Can we take this as continued perfect Greek and he was correctly stating what Christ had said or does scripture have errors?

No errors, so...

2. By pointing to the body he affirms that this is his body.

Communion Study

What is the Lord's Supper?

Luke 22:16-21 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.¹⁷ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you.¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."¹⁹ And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table.

Matthew 26:26-30 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."²⁷ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is **poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.**²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Mark 14:22-26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."²³ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it.²⁴ "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them.²⁵ "I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God."²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

John 13:1-4 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.² The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 (NIV) ²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Hebrews 9:15-22 (NIV) ¹⁵ For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶ In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, ¹⁷ because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. ¹⁸ This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. ¹⁹ When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. ²⁰ He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep." ²¹ In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. ²² In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NIV) ³¹ "The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.

³³ "This is the **covenant** I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. **"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."**

1 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV) ⁷ Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast--as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

Hebrews 10:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Hebrews 10:18 (NIV) ¹⁸ And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

Colossians 1:22 (NIV) ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation--

1 John 1:7 (NIV) ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

What is the nature of the meal?

1 Corinthians 11:20-21 (NIV) ²⁰ When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, ²¹ for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk.

1 Corinthians 10:21 (NIV) ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

Acts 2:42 (NIV) ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1 Corinthians 10:14-17 (NIV) ¹⁴ Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵ I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶ Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

1 Corinthians 11:26-32 (NIV) ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. ²⁷ Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.

²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.

³² When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

What must we do to take the Lord's Supper?

1 Corinthians 11:28-29 (NIV) ²⁸ A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 10:14-17 (NIV) ¹⁴ Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵ I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶ Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 (NIV) ¹⁰ Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹ See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV) ⁵ Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?

1 Corinthians 5:11-13 (NIV) ¹¹ But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. ¹² What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? ¹³ God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

Matthew 6:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Romans 16:17 (NIV) ¹⁷ I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

Matthew 18:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over."

Matthew 18:17 (NIV) ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV) ²³ "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

- 1. Considering what Communion is, its benefits and consequences, what rules and regulations should we adhere to, to be in line with scripture?**
- 2. Can the church maintain this type of ordinances given its detachment from each other?**
- 3. How do we hold all this in balance?**

Galatians 6:1-2 (NIV) ¹ Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Ephesians 4:2-3 (NIV) ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

CHURCH & PASTORAL OFFICE

Luther wrote in the Smalcald articles of 1537: “ a seven year old child knows what the church is, namely, holy believers and sheep who hear the voice of their shepherd (John 10:3).It’s holiness does not consist of surplices, tonsures, albs or other ceremonies of theirs which they have invented over and above the Holy Scripture, but consists of the Word of God and True faith.” (LW Vol. 39 XI) We believe that the church is the body of Christ and is called to function and act like it!

1 Corinthians 5:12; 14:4,12,26

12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?

1 Corinthians 14:4,12,26

4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

12 So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.

26 What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

Galatians 1:13 For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it.

Ephesians 5:23-30 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body.

Colossians 1:18,24 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 24 Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

1 Corinthians 11:17-22 In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. 18 In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. 19 No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God’s approval. 20 When you come together, it is not the Lord’s Supper you eat, 21 for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. 22 Don’t you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not!

James 1:27

27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Pastoral Office

The Pastor is someone who must be properly theologically training, have a calling by God and that calling confirmed by the body of elders. A Pastor in the LCMS must have a Master degree in Theology.

Ephesians 4:11-16 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Acts 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Timothy 4:12-16 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Acts 6:2-4 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

Promise

Acts 2:38-39 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Everyone Does A Little So No One Does A Lot!

God's calling for Promise is to create a church that is genuine in nature. We are commanded to be honest about who we are, accepting, caring, loving, forgiving and believers who strive to grow in their faith. We are not perfect, but that in itself is the point. At promise we strive to live according to God's design for his church and do not tolerate hateful self-righteous behavior.

As one body we are called to prepare the saints for works of service. Everyone is called to participate, not just some.

Because we are human forgiveness is essential. No one desires to hurt another but it happens. If we work it through and persevere, there is nothing that will hurt the church!

We are a growing church and therefore do not have all the services that big churches do. That is why we need everyone to do a little.

How big will we get? It is our goal to grow our church to about 750+ and then send a portion off to plant another church and grow back up again. We do not want to be a church so large that we don't know our members, but God has called us to grow and therefore that is how we will combine the two.

Training and study are essential. If we don't know God, we don't know what we are doing, who we are following and why.

Many churches teach tithing, (Setting aside money for God) in such a way as to only produce guilt. God calls us to set aside money out of our wealth for him. It is a love gift and therefore, we must first strive for faith and giving will come. We pray that you take time to consider your gift. Many use 10% of total income as a marker. Your gifts are a reflection of your love and should not be controlled by anyone else or guilt. God loves a cheerful giver!

We desire to grow as a family and to help families. We do not ask you to attend promise, but to join promise. It is the difference between seeing and being. This is YOUR church and OUR church. We pray you use it, as a vessel for training and being the body of Christ. We hope to wear it out not preserve the building. To that end may God be glorified in all we do.

In His Service

Pastor Chris Deknatel

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

(STUDY GUIDE)

OUTLINE OF REVELATION

- I. Introduction
 - A. The Prophet Is Commissioned
 - 1. The Prologue (1:1-8)
 - 2. The Commissioning Vision (1:9-10)
 - B. Prepare To Receive The Prophetic Message (Letters To The 7 Churches, 2-3)
- II. The Prophecy
 - A. The Inaugural Vision Of Heaven
 - 1. The Vision of The Throne of God And Heavenly Court (4)
 - 2. The Sealed Scroll And The Lamb Worthy To Open It (5)
 - B. The First Cycle Of 7: The Seals-Tribulation Among Mankind
 - 1. The First Four Seals: The Four Horsemen (6:1-8)
 - 2. The Fifth Seal: Suffering Of The Saints (6:9-11)
 - 3. The Sixth Seal: The End And Its Terror Described (6:12-17)
 - 4. Interlude: God's People Preserved In Suffering (7)
 - A. The 144,000: The Church Militant
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 - C. The Second Cycle Of 7: The Trumpets-Tribulations That Are To Come To Pass As The Result Of Evil.
 - 1. The First Four Trumpets Blasts: Tribulations In Nature (8:6-13)
 - 2. The Fifth Trumpet Blast: Evil From The Abyss. (9:1-12)
 - 3. The Sixth Trumpet Blast: Destruction Sweeps Over Mankind. (9:13-21)
 - 4. Interlude: God's Word Still Proclaimed (10-11)
 - a. John Is Re-Commissioned
 - b. The Saints Witness
 - 5. The Seventh Trumpet Blast: The End And Rejoicing (11:15-19)
 - D. The Cosmic Struggle Between Christ And Satan.
 - 1. The Woman, Child, And Pursuing Dragon. (12)
 - 2. The Dragon Marshals His Forces (13)
 - a. The Beast From The Sea
 - b. The Beast From The Earth
 - 3. The Conquering Lamb And The 144,000 On Mt. Zion. (14:1-5)
 - 4. Defeat Of The Dragon And His Beasts Prophesied. (14:6-13)
 - 5. Vision Of The Harvest And The End. (14:14-20)
 - E. The Third Cycle Of Seven: The Bowls Of God's Wrath-Judgement Upon Evil.
 - 1. Preparation For The Last Plagues (15)
 - 2. The First Six Bowls Of God's Wrath. (16:1-16)
 - 3. The Seventh Bowl: The End (16:17-21)
- III. The End: Close-Up
 - A. Judgement And Overthrow Of The Forces Of The Dragon.
 - 1. Judgement Of The Harlot (17)
 - 2. The Fall Of Babylon (18)
 - B. Victory Celebration
 - 1. Song Of Victory (19:1-10)
 - 2. The Vision Of The Crowned Victor Going To Receive Victory. (19:11-21)
 - C. The Judgement And Overthrow Of The Dragon Himself.
 - 1. The Millennium: Restricted In His Power (20:1-6)
 - 2. His Final Doom (20:7-10)
 - D. The New World

- 1. The Vision Of The Resurrection And Last Judgment. (20:11-15)
 - 2. The Vision Of The New Heaven And New Earth. (21:1-22-5)
- IV. Epilogue-The Promise Of Christ's Coming (22:6-21)

REVELATION

Purpose of the book of Revelation: To show the entire story of salvation.

Setting: Nero: 64 A.D. fire in Rome. The commoner's homes were destroyed but he rebuilt a palace for himself (Caesar worship) and the people blamed him for fire. Nero then blamed the Christians and made Christianity illegal. John was exiled to the island of Patmos, a penal island. The seven churches he wrote to are on a postal route.

Peter & Paul died under Nero

Nero 54-68 7 emperors in next 20 years

Trajan 98-117 continued the persecution but urged them not to go on a witch-hunt.

- Purpose of Scripture:**
- 1. Testimony of Christ
 - 2. God's Law & Gospel are described in a variety of ways
 - 3. God's vehicle for communicating the Gospel
 - 4. Through man and for man.

? The Revelation **from** Jesus Christ
 or } Greek not conclusive
 ? The Revelation **about** Jesus Christ

TITLE:	APOKALUYIE	IWANNOU
	Revelation/apocalypse	of John

Apocalyptic = This style flourished from 200 BC to 300 A.D. It is literature in which divine secrets are revealed, usually by heavenly angelic figures, to a human recipient in a historical setting. Eschatological. Use symbolic language. Esoteric: For a small group. Portrays warfare between good and evil.

John's Revelation about/from Jesus Christ to the "angel." (Angel possibly the pastor or elder)

Time & The Rapture:

εν ταχαι = Quickly...to show what must happen quickly, not necessarily "soon."

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 Jesus comes like a thief in the night

Luke 12:45-46 Long in coming- come on a day we do not know

Acts 1: 7 It is not for you to know the cronous (chronos) = Chronological order of what must take place.

Contrast:

Matt. 16:3 Signs of the Kairon (Kayron) = Time in general

(We will know the time when He comes but not the chronological sequence of events. Things will

happen to always keep us ready, but never be certain "before hand" as to when He comes.)

Matt. 24: 1-35 End times

Rapture:

Rev. 3:10 This is the passage they base everything on, in spite of overwhelming evidence against:

Matt. 24:9 They endure persecution. Refute rapture claim

1 Peter 4:12 Trials they must suffer
Rev. 13:7 Make war against the saints. How does he do this if they are raptured?
Rev. 14:14 Earth is harvested...But they were supposedly raptured???
Hebrews 9:28 He will appear a second time. Not a third and fourth
John 5: 28-29: No rapture
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Those left are in contrast to those who have died, not left behind
2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 No Rapture

VARIOUS VIEWS

Dispensational View - A dispensation is a period of time in which God ruled differently during each dispensation. "Left Behind Series" by Lahey.

Popular 19th century idea: 1800-1882 by Darbee of First Brethren
 Scollfield popularized and Hal Lindsey to Lahey

Outline:

Rev. 4:1	Rapture
4:2-19:16	7 years of tribulation God finishing His work against the Jews No church on earth at this time
19:17-20:6	Christ returns visibly in glory Christ literally is seated in Jerusalem in a 1400 mile cubed temple and rules the earth until it doesn't work and it ushers in the Apocalypse, the next dispensation.
20:7-20:10	Satan is loosed for a while
20:11-15	Judgement Day
21-22	Visions of a new heaven and a new earth

Dispensations: (Each ends because of failure)

1. **Innocence:** Take care of garden and not eat of the tree
2. **Conscience:** God Governed indirectly through conscience and people were to respond through their conscience. Was ended by the flood.
3. **Civil Gov.:** Governed with Governments. Failed at the Tower of Babel
4. **Patriarchal rule:** Ruled with leaders. People were suppose to believe and serve God.
Failed when Jacob led his people into Egypt and they were enslaved.
5. **Mosaic Rule:** God governed through the Law. They were to do the law. This ended when Christ came. But Christ did not come to establish the "land", he brought a new covenant.
6. **Grace:** God governed through the church. You must accept the gift of righteousness. It will end with worldwide rejection of Christ.
7. **Millennial:** Obedience to the glorified Christ in Israel. Christ' reign will not be successful and this will usher in Armageddon.

Preterist View - Everything took place when John wrote it.

Idealists View - It is all word pictures and not describing anything real.

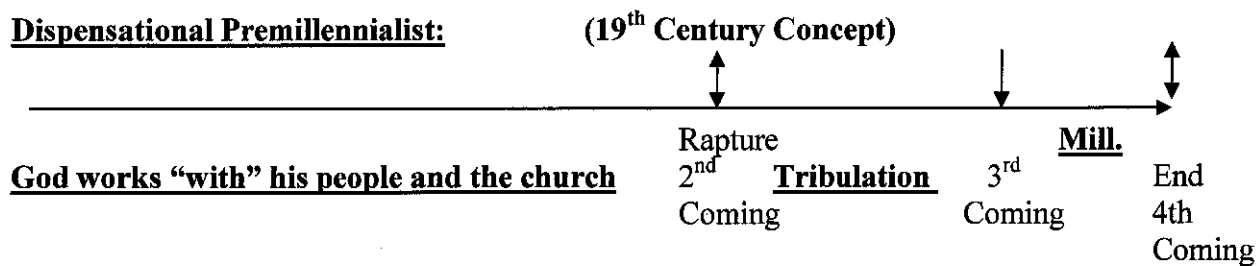
- Historical** - Unfolds in History
- Pre-millennialist** = The millennium is yet to come. If this is true then why did John write in haste?
- Post-millennialist** = The millennium has past and things should be getting better not worse. This was
De-popularized during WWI & WWII. Theologians could not support that things were getting better after Hitler.
- Amillennialist** = They believe that the millennium is now. Christ's reign over the earth began at His death and resurrection and will remain until he comes again. (A Lutheran view)

CONCEPTS: (Taken from their own website)

PREMILLENNIALISM *false Teaching*

The first view regarding the Millennium is that of PREMILLENNIALISM. The prefix, "Pre," denotes "before." The prefix is telling us at what point in relationship to the millennium that Christ will come. This view holds that our Lord will Literally return before a 1,000-year reign of Christ begins. The millennium of Revelation 20 is taken to be literal. If not literal, it at least is speaking of an indefinite period of time following the coming of Christ during which there will be perfect peace on the earth.

Within the premillennialist camp, there have come to be two identifiable views: the "dispensationalist" position, and the "historic" position. For further information defending each of these views, one should consult Reese's *The Approaching Advent of Christ* [historic] and Dwight Pentecost's *Things to Come* [dispensational]. Though the differences between the two are important, it is not within the scope of our purpose here to delve into such matters.



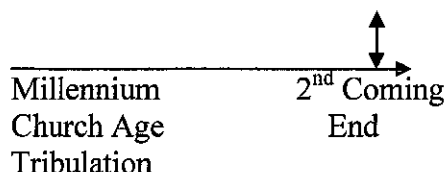
AMILLENNIALISM (Lutherans/Catholic's and most Protestant churches)

The second view is called AMILLENNIALISM, or sometimes called "realized eschatology". The prefix, "A-," means "no". This would suggest that those who hold this view do not believe in a millennium. This is somewhat misleading, however. This view is the the product of a consistent Spiritual interpretation of prophetic literature. To those, the millennium is not some future physical reign, but the

present reign of Christ in the hearts of believers. The "millennium" is an indefinite period of time (the present age) after which Christ will physically return. Prophecy in the Church, by Oswald Allis, is a standard work for the A-millennial position.

This is the position of the Roman Catholic Church, also many other Protestant denominations. It grew out of St. Augustine's spiritualizing of these issues in his writings, and the tendency of many early Christian writers to see the Church as the "new Israel" and therefore the recipient of the promises of the Old Testament for the Jewish nation. Those who hold this view do not speak of the millennium as a future happening. It is, to them, a Present Reality.

A-millennialist:



POSTMILLENNIALISM

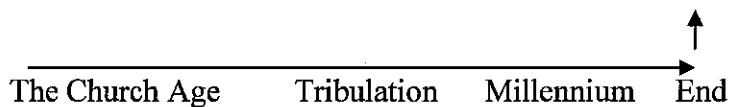
false Teaching

The third, and last, major view is that of POSTMILLENNIALISM. The prefix "Post" speaks of "after." This teaching promotes the view that the physical return of Christ will Follow an actual millennium. The influence of Christianity will over-take the world for an extended period of time, then Christ will return.

This view appears to be a mixture of the principles that work to produce the first two views. It is not consistently spiritual or literal in its interpretation of the prophetic material relevant to this issue.

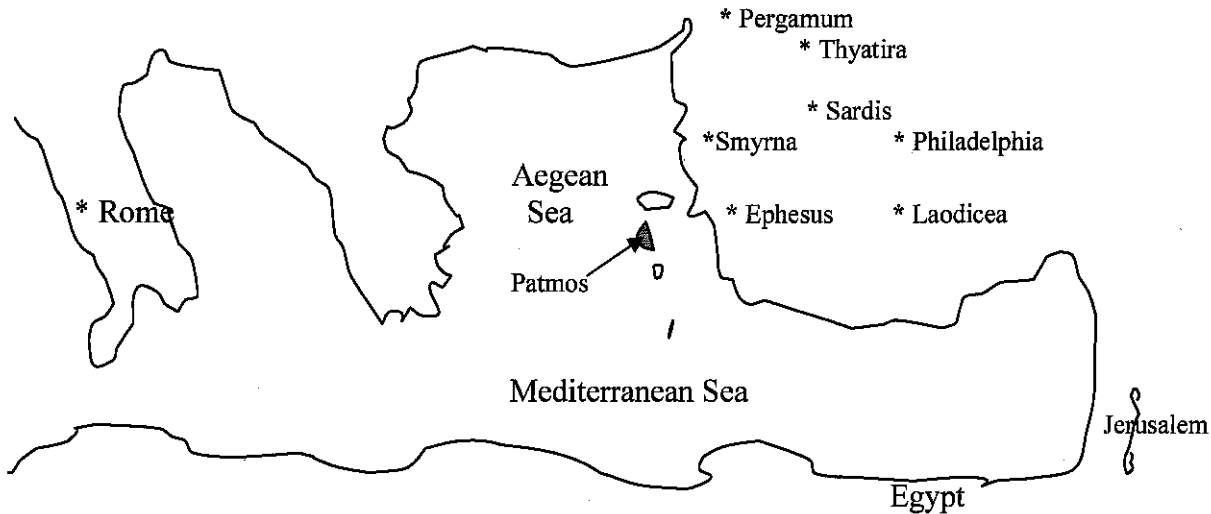
Further work: <http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/mosynod/web/endtme-4.html>

Postmillennialists: Life keeps getting better because we are in the end times. This belief waned with WWI – WWII and is held primarily by Jehovah Witnesses



VOCABULARY

Millennium	=	1,000 year reign, figuratively by some, literally by others, of a time that Christ is reigning over the earth.
Armageddon	=	a meggiddo = Battle field
Stars	=	Angels
Lampstand	=	A church
Sea	=	Chaos (Glassy sea = Chaos subdued)
7 Churches	=	



- Smyrna:** Theme—"Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life." Birth Place of Homer
 Beautiful city. Largest theatre. Large Temple to Tiberius. Lots of Jews. Synagogue of Satan= Unbelieving Jews
 Good: In poverty, but rich in Christ
 Bad: Fear of persecution. Don't let fear lead you astray
- Pergamum:** Center for 4 most important cults-Zeus, Athena, Dianises, Asclapius. Center for Imperial cults: set up a temple. Went against God for material gain.
 Good: Did not deny the faith
 Bad: Teaching of Balaam. NOTE: There was no Baal cult there. This is a metaphor for sexual immorality.
- Thyatira:** Known for trade goods. (We know the least about)
 Good: Doing deeds of love
 Bad: Old Testament Jezebel
- Sardis:** Wealthy city in Ancient times. Capital city. Home of Goddess "Cybele" Able to restore the dead to life.
 Bad: **Hypocrisy.** Their faith has no works!
- Philadelphia:** Prosperous. Opportunity to preach (open door). They don't have much power. They are the opposite of Pergamum. Giving them an opportunity to witness and if the unbelieving Jews refuse God's verdict will be permanent.
- Laodicea:** Banking, fine clothing, a madisnal school. Church was wealthy.
 Bad- **Complacency.** God calls to repentance
- Thunder = God's presence
 24 Elders = Possibly 12 tribes and 12 Apostles
 Four creatures = (Is.6:1-3, Ezekiel 1:5-26;10:3-22) There is no explanation. Some have suggested the four Gospel authors. The image parallels the idea of the four corners of the earth. The eyes seeing everything suggest that they are symbolic of all of creation. Possibly the highest order of beings in heaven

Scroll	=	The future. Our destiny.
Horn	=	Symbol of power
Eyes	=	Holy Spirit
See Outline for definition of occurrences. Below are descriptions of those things not listed in the outline:		
Seals	=	White Horse-Tyranny (Color of Conquering) White to fool people. Red Horse-Blood shed Black Horse-Recession, Famine Pale Horse- Death Blood under the altar – Blood is poured under the altar for sacrifices. The martyrs cry out, “How long?” Six seal – The end Seventh seal – Reminds us of Exodus
Trumpets	=	1/3 = not complete destruction First four trumpets: Curse of creation
Two Witnesses	=	We are. We are sent two by two. Lahey says they are Elijah & Moses???
Olive Trees	=	Israel
Woman (12)	=	Mary and the entire people of God
Babylon	=	All human entities that fight God’s people.
Harlot	=	Unfaithfulness
7 Heads	=	Divine Knowledge
1 st Resurrection	=	Baptism
2 nd Resurrection	=	Eternity
1 st Death	=	Physical death
2 nd Death	=	To be condemned

Born once, die twice. Born twice die once!

PLACE OF TROUBLE FOR LUTHERANS: CHAPTER 20

Note: Does one verse change scripture or does all of scripture help to interpret one verse?

(Later)

Satan is bound with chains. The chains are the Gospel that prevents Satan from freely deceiving. He cannot deceive the people of God. They know the voice of God. (John 12:31-33, 16:11) 1000 years is a complete time. Only two other places in the Bible mention 1,000 years; Psalm 90:4 “1,000 years is like a day” and 2 Peter 3:8.

Note what little attention is given to this section. That is because it had already been thoroughly explained throughout the book.

Consider this as a different way of reading this section:

20:2... God seized Satan and bound Him by the Gospel that anyone who calls upon Jesus will not be deceived. 4. All the saints who died before Christ came rose and lived with Him in heaven. The rest of the people on earth after Christ did not come to life until they were Baptized. 6. These people are blessed and damnation has no power over them. 7. Satan will be released for a short time and will be throne in hell where he will be destroyed. Note3-Abyss/10-Burning sulfur second is destruction, at first Satan is still able to survive.

IMPORTANCE OF NUMBERS

12 Tribes = This is in reference to the complete people of God. Note they are not the tribes all the tribes,

Dan and Ephraim are missing and Joseph is added.

144,000 = Each tribe has 1,000 and there are 12 tribes = 12,000 x 12 = all the saints

12 or Multiples = People of God

12,000 Stadia = 1400 miles. If literal the temple will be a 1400-mile high & wide cube.

A mile = 5,280 feet. Temple literally would be 7,392,000 feet.

Mt. Everest is 17,000 feet. Think about it! It's figurative!

777 = Fullness of Triune God (7 = God)

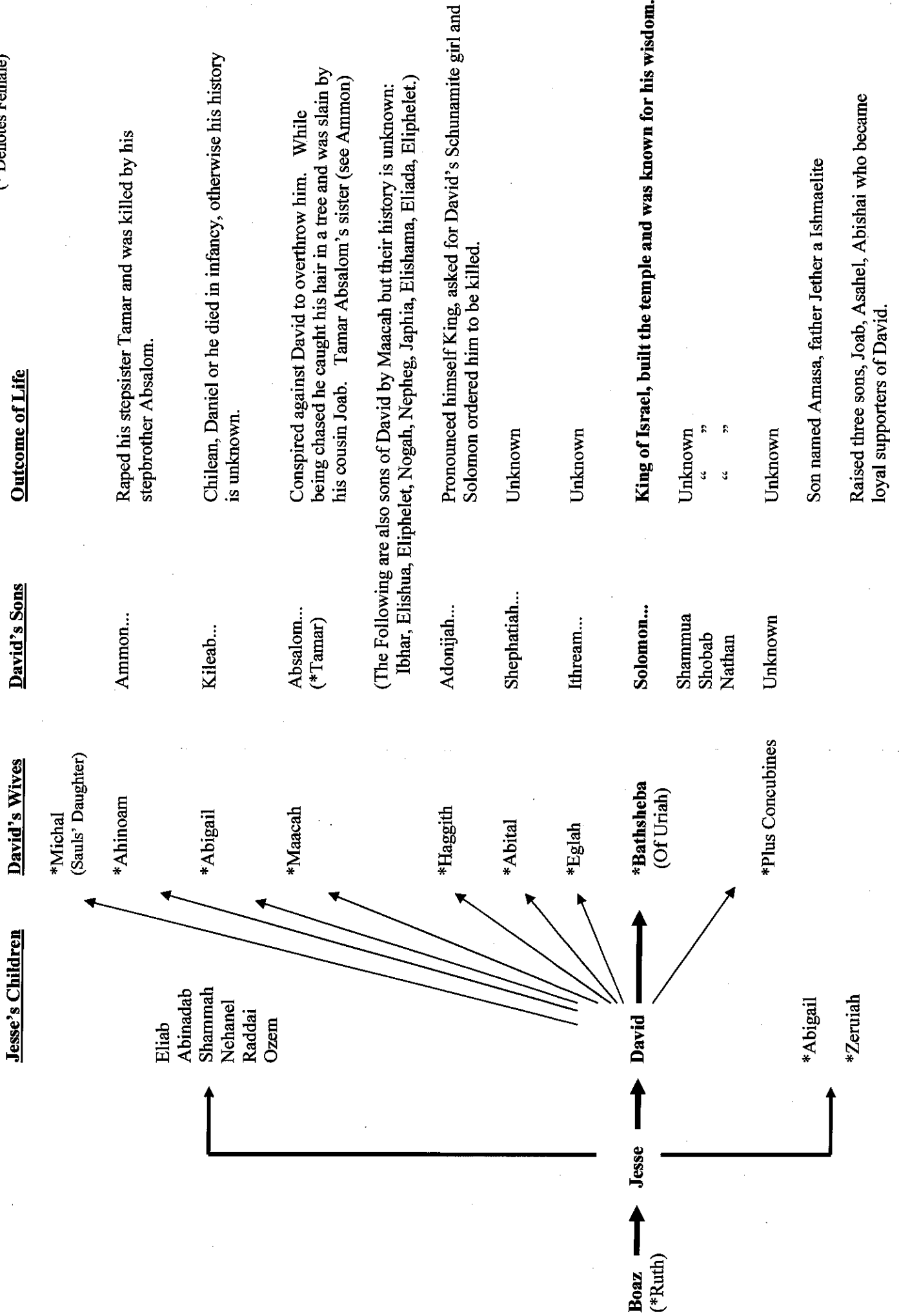
666 = Possibly parody of 777. One manuscript has 616 instead of 666, which would be the correct Hebraic numeric value for the name of Nero. 666 is only a slight error for Nero, therefore it could be feasible that they are actually talking about Nero to some degree.

42 Months = 1,260 days = 3 ½ years = Time, times and a half time = "Period of time" also used by 3 ½ years in Lunar months 30 days per month. Used in Daniel. No special meaning.

10 = Completeness

David's Family Line

(* Denotes Female)



Boaz (*Ruth)

Jesse

David

*Abigail

*Zeruiah

Eliab
Abinadab
Shammah
Nehanel
Raddai
Ozem

*Michal (Saul's Daughter)

*Ahinoam

*Abigail

*Maacah

*Hagith

*Abital

*Eglah

*Bathsheba (Of Uriah)

*Plus Concubines

Ammon...

Kileab...

Absalom... (*Tamar)

Adonijah...

Shephatiah...

Ithream...

Solomon...

Shammua

Shobab

Nathan

Unknown

Son named Amasa, father Jether a Ishmaelite

Raised three sons, Joab, Asahel, Abishai who became loyal supporters of David.

King of Israel, built the temple and was known for his wisdom.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Kings of Israel

Kings of Judah

* = Change in Ruling Family

	Jeroboam I*	931 - 910
	Nadab	910 - 909
	Baasha*	909 - 886
	Elah	886 - 885
	Zimri	885 7 days
	Tibni	885 4 years
875-848	Elijah	
	Omri*	885 - 874
	Ahab	874 - 853
	Ahaziah	853 - 852
	Joram	852 - 841
848-797	Elisha	
	Jehu*	841 - 814
	Jehoahaz	814 - 798
785-775	Jonah	
760-750	Amos	
750-715	Hosea	
	Zechariah	753 - 752
	Shallum*	752
	Menahem*	752 - 742
? Joel		
	Pekahiah	742 - 740
	Pekah*	740 - 732
	Hoshea*	732 - 723

	931 - 915	Rehoboam
	913 - 911	Abijah
	911 - 870	Asa
	873 - 848	Jehoshaphat
	853 - 841	Jehoram
	841	Ahaziah
	841 - 835	Queen Athaliah *
	835 - 796	Joash
	796 - 767	Amaziah
	791 - 740	Azariah-Uzziah 740-681 Isaiah

ASSYRIA

745 - 626

Ahaz bribes
Assyria to
attack Israel

750 - 732

735 - 715

715 - 686

696 - 642

642 - 640

640 - 609

BABYLON

626 - 539

609

609 - 598

597

597 - 586

PERSIA

539 - 333

Jews are free
to return to
Jerusalem
Ezra 6:1-5

PTOLEMAIC / SELEUCID

333 - 129

GREEK DOMINANCE

ROME

64 B.C-410

A.D.

-Jesus-

4 B.C.

Jotham

Jehoahaz-Ahaz

Hezekiah

Manasseh

Amon

Josiah

Jehoahaz II

Jehoiakim

Jehoiachin

Zedekiah

750-686 Micah

Micah

Micah

633-612 Nahum

640-609 Zephaniah

640-609 Habakkuk

626-585 Jeremiah

605-586 Obadiah

593-571 **Ezekiel** Shared God's saving grace
While under Babylonian captivity

605-530 **Daniel** Apocalyptic prophecy

538-432 **Ezra** Leads second return to
rebuild Jerusalem and encourage the
people.

460? **Esther** Willing to die for her people.
Became queen of Persia

520-480 **Zechariah** After Babylonian captivity
with Haggai. Help rebuild the temple

520 (4 Months) **Haggai** Encouraged the returning
exiles in rebuilding the temple.

432-430 **Nehemiah** Leads the third return to
rebuild the temple and completes only
outer wall.

480-430 **Malachi** Prophecies the coming of
John. Assisted in the rebuilding of
the temple.

- Silence -