

Topics by Number

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Thank you for taking the time to look over and consider the contents of this study through scriptures. The primary hope in putting *this* version of it together is that you as a Christian are able to be equipped with a selection of Biblical proofs for your beliefs and some commentary to pair with our study on how to apply it in various situations. This version uses the ESV translation and has the commentary highlighted to be differentiated quickly, as it is primarily for your education. There are also two versions without the commentary- one in [ESV](#) and one in the [Authorized 1611 KJV](#). Those are intended for anyone who might want to use it as a quick reference in sharing with others. Let us speak the truth without reproach; may God use this to strengthen you, so that you can be used in mighty ways for His kingdom. You can find this online @ vcf-panguitch.org/study-guide

1. God and his attributes

- Uncreated Creator/Eternal
 - Genesis 1:1-3: “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.”
 - Psalm 90:2: “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”
 - Nehemiah 9:6: “You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.”
 - Jeremiah 10:12: “It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.”
 - Isaiah 45:18: “For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): “I am the Lord, and there is no other.”
 - Jeremiah 32:17: ““Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.”
 - We can see that it was the belief of the Jew across the OT that God was responsible for creation, and further that he created out of nothing. It is clear that they believed God to be outside of creation, in fact he is God eternally. We as Christians share all of these beliefs.
- Exclusive/One God
 - Deuteronomy 6:4: ““Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”
 - Beginning of the integral Jewish prayer known as the “Shema Yisrael”, that is recited twice daily by religious Jews still today even; very important to them. You can learn more from their position [here](#). The most correct interpretation and application is that God is alone as God. There is an argument and application for the unity of God but that’s for another time.
 - Isaiah 43:10-11: ““You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior.”
 - We know other heavenly beings and once even men get described as ‘gods’, so what is being said here through Isaiah? The context clearly is that there may be many ‘gods’ in the eyes of man but eternally there is only 1 (ONE) being on the level of The Lord our God- himself. See the next verse to build on this premise.
 - Psalm 96:5: “For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.”
 - Isaiah 44:6-8: “Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.””
 - Isaiah 45:5-6: “I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other.”

- Isaiah 45:22: ““Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”
- These verses should be more than enough evidence to show the exclusive claims made by the Jews in the OT to show there was only one supreme being. The people of the world were distracted by false gods who did have real power and appeared supreme to MAN, but all are inferior to the one true God.
- Perfect/Righteous
 - Numbers 23:19: “God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?”
 - Hosea 11:9: “I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.”
 - We can see with these first two verses that God is not like man in that sin is of his nature. God is not man, God is Holy. Anyone who is simply man is borne of sin and thereby unrighteous.
 - Psalms 34:8: “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!”
 - Deuteronomy 32:4: “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”
 - 1 Corinthians 14:33a: “For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.”
 - See [Misc](#) for the relevant argument around this verse in particular
 - All that comes from God is good. He does not instruct us in sinful ways, he does not practice injustice or partiality, nor does he forsake his word. There should be nothing “of God” that leads us to sin against him according to his word.
- Unchanging
 - Malachi 3:6: “For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.”
 - Deuteronomy 7:9: “Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,”
 - 2 Timothy 2:13: “if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.”
 - Psalms 102:27: “ but you are the same, and your years have no end.”
 - God’s ways have been his ways from day 1 and he does not change. He does not issue false promises or change his laws. The only reason we are not responsible for upholding all of the law perfectly is because we are forgiven in Christ, that is still the standard by which all will be judged. Christ and salvation in him is not a change, but a fulfillment of the promises to come.
- Sovereign
 - Jeremiah 23:24: “Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord.”
 - Isaiah 46:9-10: “remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’”
 - Psalms 139:7-10: “Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.”

- Psalm 115:3: “Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.”
- There are three OMNI’s we ascribe to God- omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient. That is to say that He is all-present, all-powerful, and all-knowing. He exists outside of time and space, nothing happens without his permission, and he is aware of it all. There is no thought that can escape him. The [Anselm Ontological argument](#) is centered around a “Greatest Possible Being”, which would also require this to be a singular being.

2. Jesus has the same attributes

- John 1:1-5: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”
 - Firstly, the Word IS God. The greek makes it abundantly clear ([interlinear](#), [video](#) and [article](#)). Second, we can see that NOTHING was created outside of Jesus. If Jesus was created, would he not be something created outside of Jesus?
- John 1:9-18: “The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.”
 - Continuation from the passage above. The Word, who is God, came in the flesh. Most important here, in v18, is that no one has ever seen the Father. So Adam, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, etc all saw the second person of the Godhead. Notice the semicolon in the middle to differentiate that no one has seen the Father, yet the ONLY GOD who sits at the Father’s side has made God known to us.
- Hebrews 1:1-3: “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,”
 - Jesus created the world and upholds the universe by simply his word. In places like Nehemiah 9:6, wasn’t it the God of the Jews preserving all things?
- Romans 1:20: “For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”
 - Jesus is eternal and his nature is divine
- Colossians 1:16: “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”
 - ALL things were created by Jesus, physical and spiritual

- 1 Timothy 1:17: “To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”
 - The only God, immortal.
- Revelation 4:11: “ ‘Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.’ ”
 - Once again, Jesus has created all things, is eternal, and has all glory, honor, and power. He is Lord and God.
- Hebrews 13:8: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”
 - Jesus can meet the OMNIs of God. If you recall Anselm's theory, only one being can be OMNI.
- John 17:5: “And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.”
 - Jesus and the Father were together and sharing glory BEFORE the world existed. See section 8 for more detail on this specific argument of how glory sharing reveals Jesus is God.
- Revelation 22:13: “ ‘...I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.’ ”
 - Jesus is the beginning and end. Exclusive and timeless. See the bonus section on how even in the NWT for Jehovah Witnesses, that this verse can be used to show Christ’s divinity. We use that selection of verses with them because Charles Russel, like all false prophets, are incapable of fully hiding the truth they do not understand. That is to say, the verses used in that section are left unedited by them and so showing the original truth in the text.
- 1 Corinthians 8:6: “yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”
- 1 John 3:5: “You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.”
- 1 Peter 2:24: “He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.”
 - Jesus has perfect righteousness, something only God alone can accomplish.
- This section hopefully provides more than enough evidence to show that the God of the OT and Jesus share in all attributes that separate them from creation. The only logical conclusion that we can draw is Jesus=God=Father. The word trinity doesn’t appear in the text because it is the word we use to describe exactly what the text is telling us. Peter, John, and Paul weren’t sitting around thinking about how cool it would be to add in an extra god or two, they were simply sharing the message of Jesus and then we are understanding said truth. This revelation, though a departure from the orthodox second temple Judaism of Jesus’s time, is sound and supported by the OT text too without altering them.

3. Holy Spirit in Trinity

- Genesis 1:2: “The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”
 - The Spirit is eternal and was present at creation. Identified in relation to God.
- 2 Peter 1:21: “For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”
 - Holy Spirit is who was inspiring the writers and prophets of the OT. Now let’s look at examples of who the OT prophets attributed their prophecy from.
- Isaiah 45:1: “Thus says the LORD to his anointed,”
- Jeremiah 11:1: “The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:”

- Daniel 12:8-9: “I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?” He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.”
- Ezekiel 1:28: “Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.”
 - All four major prophets of the Jewish TaNaK. All attribute to God. Go explore the minor prophets too, you’ll find more of the same. It is littered across the prophets.
- 1 Corinthians 6:19: “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own”
 - We have the Holy Spirit in us, Jesus told us that was going to happen.
- John 15:26: “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.”
 - See, just like Jesus said. All three are individual persons. Jesus is going to ask to Father to send the Spirit who will speak of the Son. Jesus also declares the Helper is just as good as having him, see below. If Jesus is God, the only way it’s to our advantage for him to go is if God also comes.
- John 16:7: “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.”
- Mark 1:10-11: “And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.’”
 - Baptism of Jesus, all Three separate and involved. Given singular attributes, not an impersonal force
- 2 Corinthians 13:14: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”
 - Spirit can have fellowship, not an impersonal force
- Isaiah 63:10: “But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.”
 - Has emotion, not an impersonal force. Also notice this is the OT
 - Psalm 78:39-41
 - He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes and comes not again. How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved him in the desert! They tested God again and again and provoked the Holy One of Israel.
- Acts 2:3-4: “And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
 - This is the appearance of the Spirit on Pentecost. What is the physical manifestation? Fire. Let’s check out these next verses.
- Exodus 13:21: “And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.”
 - Now we add the glory cloud to what we might be looking for too on top of fire.
- Exodus 24:16-18: “The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of

Israel. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.”

- Moses spends time with God. He’s in the glory cloud then called to the top of the mountain where fire appeared. Is it not also fire in the bush? Further, this is when he writes the law; we know the Holy Spirit inspired the prophets.
- 1 Kings 8:11: “so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.”
 - We are temples now of the Holy Spirit. We can also see the glory cloud in the Temple after moving the veil to the Holy of Holies. Same description for Moses with the Tent of Meeting in Exodus 40:35.
- I would offer this sampling of quotes from Early Church fathers, all of whom wrote before the Nicean council (325 AD) which many falsely claim first formalized the trinity doctrine.
 - Origen - *On Principles Book 1* (220s AD)
 - “Moreover, nothing in the Trinity can be called greater or less, since the fountain of divinity alone contains all things by His word and reason, and by the Spirit of His mouth sanctifies all things which are worthy of sanctification, as it is written in the Psalm: "By the word of the LORD were the heavens strengthened, and all their power by the Spirit of His mouth.”
 - Clement of Alexandria- *Stromata 5* (195 AD)
 - “I understand nothing else than the Holy Trinity to be meant; for the third is the Holy Spirit, and the Son is the second, by whom all things were made according to the will of the Father.”
 - Tertullian- *Against Praxeas* (213 AD)
 - “while the mystery of the dispensation is still guarded, which distributes the Unity into a Trinity, placing in their order the three Persons -- the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost: three, however, not in condition, but in degree; not in substance, but in form; not in power, but in aspect; yet of one substance, and of one condition, and of one power, inasmuch as He is one God, from whom these degrees and forms and aspects are reckoned, under the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. How they are susceptible of number without division, will be shown as our treatise proceeds.”
 - Irenaeus- *Demonstration of Apostolic Preaching* (175 AD)
 - Thus then there is shown forth One God, the Father, not made, invisible, creator of all things; above whom there is no other God, and after whom there is no other God. And, since God is rational, therefore by (the) Word He created the things that were made; and God is Spirit, and by (the) Spirit He adorned all things: as also the prophet says: By the word of the Lord were the heavens established, and by his spirit all their power. Since then the Word establishes, that is to say, gives body and grants the reality of being, and the Spirit gives order and form to the diversity of the powers; rightly and fittingly is the Word called the Son, and the Spirit the Wisdom of God. Well also does Paul His apostle say: One God, the Father, who is over all and through all and in its all. For over all is the Father; and through all is the Son, for through Him all things were made by the Father; and in us all is the Spirit, who cries Abba Father, and fashions man into the likeness of God. Now the Spirit shows forth the Word, and therefore the prophets announced the Son of God; and the Word utters the Spirit, and therefore is Himself the announcer of the prophets, and leads and draws

man to the Father. This then is the order of the rule of our faith, and the foundation of the building, and the stability of our conversation: God, the Father, not made, not material, invisible; one God, the creator of all things: this is the first point of our faith. The second point is: The Word of God, Son of God, Christ Jesus our Lord, who was manifested to the prophets according to the form of their prophesying and according to the method of the dispensation of the Father: through whom all things were made; who also at the end of the times, to complete and gather up all things, was made man among men, visible and tangible, in order to abolish death and show forth life and produce a community of union between God and man. And the third point is: The Holy Spirit, through whom the prophets prophesied, and the fathers learned the things of God, and the righteous were led forth into the way of righteousness; and who in the end of the times was poured out in a new way upon mankind in all the earth, renewing man unto God. And for this reason the baptism of our regeneration proceeds through these three points: God the Father bestowing on us regeneration through His Son by the Holy Spirit.

4. The LORD (jehovah) is God (elohim)

**Not one* of the chapters in this section are altered in the Joseph Smith Translation *in any way*, Joseph confirms these to be *accurate* translations.

CONTEXT: It is the LDS belief that “Elohim” is the Father and that “Jehovah” is the Son. Jehovah is a faulty pronunciation/translation of the tetragrammaton, better known as the personal name for God using the letters ‘YHWH’. Jehovah Witnesses do not believe Jesus was YHWH, the LDS do. However, since our LDS friends do not believe there is one God, they ignore the power of seeing Jesus as YHWH. the Father and Son are two distinct personages and two distinct gods – hence, the Bible should support this teaching. Does the Bible teach that “Elohim” and “Jehovah” are two beings? First though we need to know how to find the Hebrew words themselves in an English translation. A vast majority of the time, the word “God” in the English Bible is the translation of the Hebrew “Elohim.” If you are in doubt about a specific passage, consult a [concordance](#) or [interlinear](#) version. The way you recognize the tetragrammaton is that the English will translate it “LORD” in capitals, yet ‘ORD’ in a smaller font size like just before. LDS do the same- see the Bible Dictionary published by the LDS Church ([Jehovah](#)). In the [temple endowment](#) ceremony, [Elohim](#) and Jehovah appear as separate and distinct individuals. They talk with each other and interact – there is no way to confuse them.

- [Deuteronomy 4:35](#): “To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord is God; there is no other besides him.”
 - [Interlinear English-Hebrew](#)
 - [BLB interlinear](#)
- [Psalm 100:3](#): “Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.”
 - [Interlinear](#)
 - [BLB Interlinear](#)
- [1 Kings 18:39](#): “And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God.”
 - [Interlinear](#)
 - [BLB Interlinear](#)
- [Psalm 97:9](#): “For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.”

- [Interlinear](#)
- [BLB Interlinear](#)
- **Deuteronomy 6:4:** ““Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”
 - [Interlinear](#)
 - [BLB Interlinear](#)
 - I said there was a later time, here it is. The Jew of Moses’ time, when this was written, very arguably believed in the two powers, Yahweh in Heaven and Yawhew on Earth. Genesis 18 is a good proof text for this. We know this was generally lost, especially by time of the Rabbinic formation after the fall of the temple, however for Moses there certainly could be the point of “God in heaven is the same as God the glory cloud leading us. God is ONE.” This of course is a valid interpretation logically in hindsight with the revelation of Jesus and the development of our understanding of the Holy Trinity.
- **Isaiah 44:24:** “Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: “I am the Lord, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,”
 - [Interlinear](#)
 - [BLB Interlinear](#)
 - This is more of an aside from a document we examined in this section. If we read the [temple exaltation ceremony](#), we see Michael is helping in creation as directed by Elohim.

5. God doesn’t share glory. Jesus and the Father share glory

- **Isaiah 42:8:** “I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.”
 - God of the OT Jews does not share his glory. He should be the only one with it
- **Isaiah 48:11:** “For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.”
 - Once again, ONLY God should have any of his glory as a part of their nature. You could argue we display the glory of God in our salvation but that is not of our nature, only found in us because HE is found in us.
- **Hebrews 1:1-3:** “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,”
 - Hold up, Jesus is an exact copy of the glory and nature of God the Father? I thought God didn’t share his glory?
- **2 Corinthians 4:4-6:** “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”
 - Jesus displayed the Glory of God in his physical body, not just some spiritual blessing that comes after his resurrection.
- **John 17:5:** “And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.”
 - In fact that glory has been there since the world existed. The primary point of this line of thinking starting with the two verses in Isaiah and then coming to a large number of NT verses, we can see that God doesn’t share glory with any other being and also that Jesus and

the Father share the same glory, ETERNALLY. Further it says *shared with you*, which we can conclude there were two having this at the same time, so no modalism or arianism heresy here. The only logical conclusion is that it is the same glory held by the same being, displayed through the persons of the father and son.

6. Salvation

- Sufficiency of blood atonement
 - The primary point of this section is to show that the atoning sacrifice of Jesus was enough to cover ALL sin for all of time. If 100% of the bill is paid, why would I need to pay any of it?
 - 1 John 1:7: “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 cleanses us from all sin.”
 - 1 Peter 1:19: “but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”
 - 1 John 2:2- “He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”
 - Hebrews 7:27- “He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.”
 - He cleanses us from ALL sins, paid the price for us, for the WHOLE world, once for all
 - Hebrews 9:12- “he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.”
 - Hebrews 10:10-14- “And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”
 - Can’t miss it in Hebrews. Over and over again, Christ died for ALL of the sins of ALL of the world.
 - 1 Peter 2:24- “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”
 - It was immediately we were dead to sin and alive in Christ’s righteousness. There is no future question, it’s set in Christ.
 - Matthew 12:31: “Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.”
 - Primarily this text is for the first half, that every sin will be forgiven, but let’s address what I believe blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is in case it comes up. My belief is that it is the outright rejection of the gospel and works of the Spirit as evil. We can see in scripture that although man is able to be saved until his death, that hearts can be hardened to God. Why will someone who firmly rejects the workings of the Spirit while in knowledge of the Spirit? Because they will never turn to the Spirit for forgiveness. How can the Spirit forgive the one who never asks? The context would be that right before he said these words, Jesus had cast out a demon. The Pharisees came to Him and accused Him of casting out demons by demonic power. They

attributed the working of the Holy Spirit to the power of Satan – they had called God the devil. Jesus identifies this act, that of calling that which is good evil, as the unpardonable sin. When one blasphemes the Holy Spirit, they are cutting themselves off from the presence and work of the Spirit. When one rejects the work of the Holy Spirit (by attributing it to evil, as the Pharisees had done), one is cut off from His convicting power. Remember that the Bible tells us, in John 16:8 for example, that one of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to bring conviction of sin to the heart of man.

- By Faith

- John 3:18: “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”
- John 5:24: “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”
- Romans 5:1: “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Genesis 15:6: “And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.”
- Ephesians 2:8-10: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”
 - God planned the good works beforehand, we were created in our mothers womb. Election text not pre-life spiritual creation.
- The only way by which grace is given is through faith in the judge. True faith alone is what delights the Lord. I cannot achieve salvation. Nothing I do will ever be good enough or worth something to God in that sense. I must live a life where I with absolute confidence believe that I am in the hands of Jesus as judge and he is good to save because I trust him alone to do so. I have done nothing to deserve it, God was gracious and gave faith when I did not deserve it. To add in any other part to the equation is to start trusting yourself. If my works had anything to do with it, I would be able to boast about my good works- if i could do it and get over the hump why couldn't you?

- Justification

- Romans 3:20: “For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.”
- Romans 3:28: “For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”
 - Law won't save us, we all fall short of it. Not to mention that Paul brings it up often in Romans that by simply knowing the law and what is good, we expose ourselves to knowing what is sin and evil by juxtaposition. Then by knowing sin we are able to be tempted and held guilty by the law. As it says in James 2, trust the law of liberty in Christ, that we can live in total service to him without fear that we might be breaking the law on accident because our judge is good to forgive when we serve and trust him totally.
- Romans 4:2- 5: “For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but

as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,”

- Woah, even the one who does not work but believes fully in God is counted righteous. What if I came to saving faith in the ER hours moments before my passing? What of the thief on the cross? Love and serve God to the best of your abilities all of your days left because you love God and want to serve him since he already saved you, not because our works are meaningful to save. If we trust in our works to save, well that is to live to the law and we must do them- but we still will fall short of our due in the law and thereby find no salvation.
- Galatians 3:10-11: “For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith”
- Romans 10:4: “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”
- Romans 11:6: “But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.”
 - Grace is only grace because it is underserved. If we do something to earn grace, well that’s not grace, that’s payment.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21: “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
 - First, a rabbit trail- this shows Jesus knew no sin and was without it. Second and to the point, it is only through Christ that we receive God’s imputed righteousness.
- John 3:5: “ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”
 - Don’t rush to this verse if you are not prepared to have a discussion around baptism, even though it is not the context of this verse. The intention of this text is to show that new life in Christ, the idea of being ‘born again’ through the spirit. All men have had first life in Adam through our physical body but we have found new life in Christ spiritually. The physical world was created in Genesis ‘out of the water of the deep’ so all first life is the life of water. Our new life is in the spirit through the true and better Adam, Christ. This is Jesus and Nicodemous discussing salvation through faith, the famous discourse John 3:16-21 comes from.
- Galatians 2:20-21: “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.”
- John 6:28-29: “Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.””
- Galatians 2:16: “yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.”
- James 2:14-19: “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith

apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!”

- If the point hasn't been driven home enough at this point, this is the number one text to go to. Ultimately the formula plays out like this: because I have faith, I am saved, and because I am saved I will work for God. We have totally missed it if our thinking becomes: because I have faith, I do works, and because I have faith and do works I am saved. James is saying that someone with true faith is going to do works because that is what true faith inspires. Work is a fruit of faith and salvation, not the cause of it. We preached on it, the sermon can be found [here](#).

7. Authority of scripture

- Proverbs 30:5-6: “Every word of God proves true, he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.”
- Matthew 24:35: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”
- Proverbs 13:13: “Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded.”
- Isaiah 40:8: “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever”
 - 1 Peter 1:23-25 quotes
- 2 Timothy 3:16: “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,”
- All of scripture is valuable, is true, and will not fall. [We can trust the historical Bible and our scholarly translations today](#).

8. Church will not fall

- Jude 1:3: “Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.”
- Matthew 16:18: “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
- Mark 3:27: “But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.”
 - The application of the first two are more obvious, but this one takes a second. We know that the Church is called the house of God (see the next two verses below) and the Bride of Christ. Both fit into this analogy being made to the same point. How could man or even Satan come and bind God?
- Ephesians 2:19-22: “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”
- 1 Timothy 3:15: “if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.”
 - Pillars and Buttresses were built to withstand the forces of time and weight against them. They *withstood* and did not fall. This is the same declaration to Timothy, that the Church was a pillar of truth and a buttress against falsehood.
- John 14:15-17: ““If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot

receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

- God is infallible and dwells with us. Spirit was coming FOREVER. Did the generation alive during the falling away lose the Spirit?
- Matthew 7:25: “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”
 - From the sermon on the mount discussion on building on sand or rock. [Jesus declares that on the rock it will not fall. Isn't the Church built on the rock?](#)

9. False Prophets & Gospels

- Matthew 24:24: “For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.”
- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15: “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.”
 - Key here is that Satan and his workers can disguise themselves as “angels of light”. Not hard considering they are the product of fallen angels and they know the truth better than us. Foolish man is easily tricked when trusting in things outside of God’s word because we are dealing with power far beyond our own. Christ and his word must be our anchor. It is the truth and our enemy is the ultimate deceiver.
 - [Joseph’s Vision](#)
 - [Muhammad , pg 292-297 Ibn Kathir](#)
- 2 Timothy 4:3-4: “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”
 - Our hearts are wicked and deceitful above all else, of course when we follow anything but God’s word we will start drifting.
- Acts 20:28-31: “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ”
 - Paul didn’t even have to die for false teachings to come in, just him leaving town was enough for the wolves. Point is, everything wasn’t perfect until after the death of the apostles, there always was Satan at work, AND God has always had his teaching to combat lies.
- 2 Peter 3:17-18: “You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”
- 2 Peter 2:1-3: “But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”

- It is curious that so often falsehoods wrap themselves around principles that fall under sexual sin. Think of the belief of jihadist muslim men that 72 virgins will await them in heaven or how pervasive polygamy in so many different religious sects.
- 1 John 4:1-5: “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.”
 - John is specifically speaking out against a form of gnostic heresy called Docetism. Their belief was that Jesus did not come in a physical body but only as spirit appearing to be physical. However the greater point is found in verse 1, to test every spirit by the word. Gnosticism is the overarching belief in self-enlightenment, secret knowledge, and some form attaining “godhood”. It is not so much a fully formed religion so much as almost a branch of philosophy in which religions spring from. There is a specific form of it that goes by the singular name which could be more appropriately called an individual religion but by and large when referring to something as gnostic, it is referring to the general philosophical/theological way of thinking. We reject it wholly as Christians and have since the first generation of the Church.
- Matthew 7:15-20: “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”
 - How can we judge by fruits? Don't evil people sometimes do good things? Don't followers of Christ fall into sin occasionally? To examine fruit in the literal sense, we need the whole picture: a pomegranate could look beautiful and ripe on the outside but rotting internally, and equally an avocado could be black and bruised yet still deliciously ripe on the inside. The foundations of what we do and why we do it are critical. Let's use Christianity and Islam- both have followers who do positive things in the world and followers who do negative things in the world today. Both religions have had believers commit atrocities “in the name of their God.” So how can we tell the fruits? I would suggest we go to the roots- for example did the evils happen because men are evil and do selfish things or because the teachings they base themselves on call for it. Jesus never once called for war or the killing of apostates, Muhammad did. Jesus and Joseph Smith both were persecuted and killed for their teachings, yet Jesus was an innocent man of all sin and crime, Joseph was not. Job is clear that the world does not work on a black and white transaction scale where only good comes from good people and evil people only do bad. We have to see the roots and causes of actions and understand what the fruit really is. Many fruits look sweet and ripe yet are rotting on the inside.
- 2 Peter 1:16-21: “For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word more fully

confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

- Mark 13:22: “For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.”
 - Echoing Matthew 24:24 that we started with.
- Jude 1:4: “For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”
 - Echoing 2 Peter 2:1-3 in that it ties sensuality into the perversion of the gospel.
- Galatians 1:6-9: “ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”
 - Michael and Gabriel themselves could come down themselves with their heavenly ID Badge but if they start preaching something contrary to what we have in scripture, let them be accursed. The gospel as we have it, that God came as Jesus to die an atoning death for our sins receivable through faith, should never be taken away from or added to.

10. Test of a Prophet

- Deuteronomy 18:21-22: “And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the Lord has not spoken?’— when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.”
 - Prophets speaking in the name of God must be 100% correct. 999/1000 correct prophecies means you are a false prophet.
- Deuteronomy 18:20: “But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.”
 - The punishment for being a false prophet is death. You don’t get to make a mistake but keep swinging. If you say you speak for God and don’t- death according to the law.
- Deuteronomy 13:4-5: “You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.”
 - Again, if you try to lead people from the one true God, you are a false prophet deserving of death under the law.
- Deuteronomy 4:2: “You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you.”
 - No one can add or take away to what is written in the scripture. Moses did not mean that only the Pentateuch should ever be written, but rather than no one should ever add to his writings. So the rest of the OT and all of the NT are not “adding to what’s written” rather writing new

documents that were later all coalesced into one book- the Bible. False prophets all across time have taken to adding and subtracting from God's word to fit their message. The distinct difference would be that in the NT they not only kept the OT as it, but also everything written can be supported through evidence found in the OT.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:21: “but test everything; hold fast what is good.”
 - Use God's word as our benchmark. If it does not fit the Bible, toss it out. Nothing should be accepted only on the grounds of “it makes sense to me” or “ it is comforting”.
- Galatians 1:8: “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.”
- 1 John 4:1: “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”
 - As we saw in the previous section, we have to test it to God's word because deceptive voices are going to be sharing it.
- Acts 17:10-12: “The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.”
 - Berean Jews had Paul rock up into their Synagogue and start preaching the message of Christ. What did they do when their own beliefs in the temple practices were confronted? Searched God's word and found it to be true. No surprise to me that the folks who actually went and examined God's word were coming to salvation. Remember, they only had the OT too so it's not like they read Romans and agreed with Paul about his own teachings.

11. Priesthood

For most Protestants, this is going to be the most difficult section to have fruitful discussion around because the concept of any sort of priesthood is far removed from us with a ‘low church view.’ Even the Catholic or Orthodox believer is pretty well removed from the Judaic priesthoods, even if they still carry a ‘high church’ view and use the title priest. Engage in this topic once you understand what the bible says around the prescribed priesthood. The verses below will give you a blueprint that helps you start a framework for this. It will take more learning to fully understand how to use these verses in discussion accurately.

- Numbers 16:40: “to be a reminder to the people of Israel, so that no outsider, who is not of the descendants of Aaron, should draw near to burn incense before the Lord, lest he become like Korah and his company—as the Lord said to him through Moses.”
 - Learn more about Korah's rebellion by reading Numbers 16 first. The blood lineage of Aaron, out of the tribe of Levi, are the only ones ordained by God to perform certain priestly duties.
- Hebrews 5:4: “And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.”
 - We cannot appoint ourselves with the honor of a high priest, the ones who would act on behalf of man in relation to God. Look at Exodus 29 and Leviticus 8 for how Aaron was appointed.
- Hebrews 7:3: “He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.”
 - Jesus is our high priest, eternally. This chapter describes the Priesthood of Melchizedek, the only place, and this is a description of who holds it.

- Hebrews 7:12: “For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.”
 - The priesthood is written into scripture so if you want to change how the priesthood in its assignment, duties, operation, etc then you first have to change scripture itself. Which if we recall Deuteronomy 4:2, is a no go. Historical pre-Christ temple Judaism is the only way it can be.
- Hebrews 7:24-25: “but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.”
 - Again, Jesus is our eternal high priest, one who does not change. This is speaking of the priestly order of Melchizedek. Without writing a doctoral thesis on the topic, only two men in all of scripture are prescribed to this order- Melchizedek and Jesus, both right now. Depending on your position of Melchizedek’s identity, that might mean only ONE person has ever held the position- the Son alone. Today LDS believe in this order and there is no biblical basis for it.
- Hebrews 8:4: “Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law.”
 - We don’t need priests now because we don’t live by the law and there is no temple. Jesus is a priest to his own order for us and is the fulfillment of the law- all after his atoning death.
- Matthew 27:51: “And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.”
 - The temple system ended when God split the divide between him and man. No longer did the priest have to enter for atonement because atonement had been made. Further, we can conclude for two reasons the priestly temple system was under judgment as on the Day of Atonement from the death of Christ til the destruction of the Second Temple. Primarily the obvious part of the destruction of the Temple. Also though, per the Jewish Talmud, on the annual Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, for the 40 years before the destruction of the temple (30-70AD) the scarlet cloth tied to the scapegoat never turned white again to symbolize God’s miraculous forgiveness. The [Talmudic authors](#) seem to miss the obvious connection as to why that might have been.
- John 1:12: “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,”
 - All of us are on equal footing with no partiality to God under Christ. We all are receivers of the same inheritance. Some in the body have gifts that function to help lead the body but they are not inherently there by blood or by worthiness, just a different functional skillset. This is a portion of my rejection of Papal or Prophetic authority.
- Revelation 1:6: “and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”
- 1 Peter 2:5: “you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”
 - We all are a part of this new priesthood, who can interact and commune with God through Jesus. It is not us who is rightfully able to approach the throne of the Father, but rather through our mediator and high priest Jesus. He who is all knowing and lives within us through the Holy Spirit. You can pray to God, you can confess and repent to him, you can offer your worship and life as a living sacrifice to him. There is no need for a new higher priesthood to do this on our behalf.

12. Heart & Witness of Man

- Proverbs 14:12: “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”
- Jeremiah 17:9: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”
 - Trusting man means trusting deceit. Trusting in man and our hearts lead to death. Probably not the best way to judge wisdom or truth, by the heart of man.
- Acts 17:11: “Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”
 - Seems like Paul is suggesting it is noble to search the Bible for wisdom and truth. Many chapters of him going to synagogues and teaching but only the Bereans who searched the word get called noble. They also believe Paul after searching the word.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:21: “but test everything; hold fast what is good.”
 - Test things. Does this hold up to the Word? Is this logical with my understanding of the world? Does any physical evidence exist at all or is it all contrary? Remember God is not a God of confusion.
- James 1:5: “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”
 - God give us wisdom, clarity of mind, to be able to go and search his world and Word for truth. We are not praying that he just drops divine revelation into our mind.

13. Apostles

- Acts 1:20-26: ““For it is written in the Book of Psalms, “‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and “‘Let another take his office.’ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.”
 - This is the replacement of Judas in the 12. There are clear qualifications the appointed apostle had to have: 1) Following Jesus from the baptism to that time 2) eyewitness of the physically resurrected body of Jesus Christ
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-10: “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.”
 - There were others considered apostles, hundreds even, but they all had the same key qualification: They saw the physically resurrected body of Jesus. Unless you are claiming to

have been alive 2000 years ago or are claiming a 'Road to Damascus' moment like Paul, you cannot be an apostle of even the lowest degree.

14. The Angel of the Lord

- **Exodus 3:2-6**: “And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.”
 - Who is it that appears in the bush? The angel. Yet who does it say right after is speaking from the bush? Yahweh. It says Moses would not look at the bush for he was afraid to look at God, that he was on holy ground.
- **Exodus 23:20-22**: “Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him. But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.”
 - This angel has the name of Yahweh in him, he has the power to forgive sins. Who is the only one that can have the name of God and forgive sins? God.
- **Genesis 16:10-14**: “The angel of the LORD also said to her, “I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude.” And the angel of the LORD said to her: “Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has listened to your affliction. He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.” So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, “You are a God of seeing,” for she said, “Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.””
 - The angel has the power to create life. Who is the only one who can create life? God. Further, when Hagar hears from the angel what is her response? She called out the name of Yahweh who spoke to her, called him God. She attributes the angel as Yahweh.
- **Genesis 22:11-12**: “But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”
- **Genesis 22:15-18**: “And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”
 - Who was speaking? The angel. What does the angel say? That Abraham didn't hide Isaac from HIM. The HE will bless Abraham. That HE will multiply the offsprings. He declares himself as Yahweh!
- **Zechariah 3:1-2**: “Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke

you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?””

- Joshua is standing next to the Angel and Satan. Who then does it say speaks to Satan?
Yahweh!
- **Zechariah 3:3-5**: “Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. And the angel said to those who were standing before him, “Remove the filthy garments from him.” And to him he said, “Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments.””
 - Again, the angel is claiming to be forgiving sins and offering righteousness, something only God can do.
- **Judges 13:17-19**: “And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?” And the angel of the LORD said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?” So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it on the rock to the LORD, to the one who works wonders, and Manoah and his wife were watching.”
 - When the angel was asked his name so he could be honored, he responded that it was too wonderful. Once hearing the angel’s response, Manoah makes an offering to Yahweh.
 - “Wonderful” = [pil’îy](#)
 - Wonderful, incomprehensible
- **Genesis 31:11-13**: “Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob,’ and I said, ‘Here I am!’ And he said, ‘Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.””
 - The angel claims to Jacob to be the God of Beth-El, the place where Abraham first encountered Yahweh, where Jacob had his ladder dream. Beth-El means ‘House of God’ and was named by Jacob as such after his dream.
- **Genesis 48:15-16**: “And he blessed Joseph and said, ‘The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys, and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.””
 - Jacob is calling for a blessing on his grandsons from God yet once he interchangeably refers to him as “the angel who redeemed me”.
- **Judges 2:1-4**: “Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, “I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you, and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done? So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you.” As soon as the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the people of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept.”
 - The angel claims to be the one who brought them from Egypt and into the land HE swore to give to the people.
- **John 8:58**: “Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’”
- **John 1:18**: “No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.”

- We are claiming this angel to be a [theophany](#), appearances of the second person of the trinity before he came in the body of Jesus. We know Jesus claimed to be eternal and that this yahweh identified being of the angel can't be the Father.
- Genesis 32:3: “And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom,”
 - The word for [messengers](#) is the same word used in ANGEL. Context clues are important when we are reading so we know who is being discussed. Is it a singular personal “*The Angel of the LORD*”? That is never going to be just a regular created angel.

Miscellaneous

- 1 Corinthians 14:33a: “For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.”
 - There is a significant amount of confusion that has to be accepted for the claims of breakoff sects to be true. Archeological evidence supports the writings of the Bible and little to no evidence has been found to discredit the text. Which is sensible and peaceful? A) actually the whole history of the Church since Jesus is wrong, the Bible is faulty and even though all evidence points to it being correct, it's not OR B) Historical evidence suggests the OT and NT as we have them are accurate copies of ancient primary texts and the Church at large has an accurate history of its belief development. The main arms of historical Christianity are what they say they are.
- Psalm 89:19-20, 26-27: “I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him, so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm also shall strengthen him... He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’ And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.”
 - What does firstborn mean? Can't mean the literal first born, David was the seventh son of Jesse. Can't mean he was the first King of Israel, that's Saul. Can't even be the first king to honor God in Jerusalem, that's Melchizedek. Clearly what it means here is that he is ranked supreme over. God lifted David up higher than any earthly King of his day. Jesus isn't the first born, he's supreme over all.
- James 1:17- “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change”
 - Salvation is from Jesus. Is salvation good? Faith is from the Spirit, is faith good? Either every good gift isn't from the Father or there is unity in the Father, Son, and Spirit in that every good Gift IS from God.
- Matthew 22:30- “For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.”
 - Jesus himself says there is no marriage in the next life. How can marriages be [eternal](#)?
- 1 Corinthians 15:29- “Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf?”
 - This is the verse someone is going to come to for baptism for the dead. Notice how Paul uses the other term *those who*. This is not lost in the greek either, the term translates well. The context of the whole of this passage in 1 Corinthians 15 is the consequences of *what-if* bodily resurrection is not real. This specific verse is saying in essence: *if people are not going to be raised bodily, why are these folks doing this act?* Paul mentions many acts that other groups do over the totality of his letters, it doesn't mean it is what he teaches. See section below on Doctrines & Covenants 76 for more on baptism for the dead specific to witnessing with LDS friends.
- Exodus 6:3- “I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them.”
 - A studious person may use this as an example of a contradiction in the Bible. We do find the name LORD (the tetragrammaton / yahweh / jehovah) in Genesis during the stories of these men. The question to ask is who is the author of Exodus and who is the author of Genesis? It's the same guy, Moses. He is the one I AM revealed himself to by this title and I AM is the one who recounted the stories of old to Moses to be recorded in Genesis. Genesis is not a patchwork of diaries from the patriarchs.

BONUS- Mormon Teachings:

- [1 Nephi 13:25-26](#)- “Wherefore, these things go forth from the Jews in purity unto the Gentiles, according to the truth which is in God. And after they go forth by the hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, thou seest the formation of that great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches; for behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away.”
 - Falling away of the church after the apostles. Let’s be conservative and use 70AD before the fall of the Temple as the cutoff line. Anything written before that should be correct. Well we have at least portions if not full books of every OT book but Ester as they appear in the Christian bible from before 70 AD. So why does Joseph rewrite them when even Christ didn’t? Why no mention of the LDS-only prophets like Nephi?
- [2 Nephi 25:23](#): “...for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.”
 - Salvation comes after all we can do, whatever standard that is. Scripture lays out that there is none righteous, no not one. So how can any of us meet the standard? Pair this with scripture from the salvation section.
- [Moroni 10:4,5](#): “And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.”
 - See above section on the testimony/heart of man. We know trusting our own heart is not the standard. If that is the standard, how can I differentiate between Mormons’ and Muslims’ truth claims?
- [Mosiah 16:15](#) - “Teach them that redemption cometh through Christ the Lord, who is the very Eternal Father. Amen.”
 - The Son is the Father [here to just a chapter earlier](#) too. This is not something to approach lightly. It IS their belief that Jesus created all of the world and consider him the “father” of it. It’s not the obvious gotcha that appears at first glance. However, I see it useful in two ways, at least. First, it is not the most common doctrine to be brought up and I would just spend some time asking them about their beliefs in it. It will help you understand their mindset or reveal they were unaware. That sets us up for the second part, Joseph has to hide the truth that IS in scripture. The Son IS the Father, completely and totally. Is this part of the BoM because Mosiah revealed it or because Joseph couldn’t hide obvious verses like Isaiah 9? As you are starting to bring someone around on the trinity, 3 persons 1 being, you can point to this and show how it doesn’t follow that two beings can be one another in an exhaustive eternal way except not be each other.
- [King Follet Discourse](#)
 - Joseph’s final sermon before his death, possibly his most famous. In it he details clearly and deliberately his beliefs on matters such as
 - God was not always God, but once a man
 - God was not the first God
 - Man can become as God is
 - Works for the dead

So, plenty that contradicts scripture. Not only that, but he does go into a discussion on the Hebrew language here. An often shared apologetic is “How could a simple man with no more

than a third grade education just make something up like this?” Well, ignoring the plagiarism for a moment, is he a simple man with a third grade education or someone qualified to teach ancient Hebrew?

- [D&C 76:71-84](#)
 - Baptisms for the dead are for those who are not presently but still can still be saved, essentially anyone who never became LDS in this life. We go to spirit prison, but only temporarily. The current position of the Church is that “Sons of Perdition” are the only ones doomed to hell for eternity, for turning their back as an apostate of the church in this life.
 - Further I would add that if you go further up in D&C 76 to verse 15, Joseph declares this vision of future glory was inspired by John 5:29. I would argue that to assume Jesus is discussing literal dead here is a faulty interpretation. Let us consider the premise of “born again”/ “new life” presented just two chapters earlier in John 3 during the discourse with Nicodemous. In a passage about authority, salvation and judgment (John 5:19-29), is it not more likely Jesus is talking about his future coming and the white throne judgment of Revelation 20:11-15? That is a tough passage to work with if you are taking the position that someone else can impact this status for you.
- [2 Nephi 5:21-22](#) - “And he had caused the cursing to come upon them, yea, even a sore cursing, because of their iniquity. For behold, they had hardened their hearts against him, that they had become like unto a flint; wherefore, as they were white, and exceedingly fair and delightsome, that they might not be enticing unto my people the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them. And thus saith the Lord God: I will cause that they shall be loathsome unto thy people, save they shall repent of their iniquities.”
 - Racial doctrine example, please don’t run to this or polygamy first. In their mind, it’s a living faith that can rightly change with the times. Not to mention the world throws these things at them every day when they don’t even agree. We have the true authority to go to first and can use this as a final log on the fire not the opening spark. First spend the time establishing how God and his ways don’t change. What he loved and was right while walking with Adam is the same today with no changes. *Then* come to the Church changing things like this for political and social gain.
 - [Moroni 8:18](#): “For I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but he is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity.”
 - God does not change, even according to LDS doctrine.

BONUS- Jesus is God w/ NWT (Jehovah Witness bible)

These are a procession of verses you can walk through with a JW in their own bible to show Jesus’s divinity. You have to go in order, don’t rush it and make sure they see and agree with each step. If they do at the end there’s no denying it with any logic or honesty.

- Case 1
 - [Revelation 21:5-7](#): “And the One seated on the throne said: “Look! I am making all things new.” Also he says: “Write, for these words are faithful and true.” And he said to me: “They have come to pass! I am the Al’pha and the O-me’ga, the beginning and the end. To anyone thirsting I will give from the spring of the water of life free.”

- Ask who is the “the One seated on the throne” in their mind. Jah (the Father) right? He is making all things new, is the Alpha and Omega.
 - [John 5:22](#): “For the Father judges no one at all, but he has entrusted all the judging to the Son”
 - Who is the ONLY one that is going to judge? The son, Jesus.
 - [Matthew 16:27](#): “For the Son of man is to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will repay each one according to his behavior.”
 - The SON will repay each one according to his behavior, or judge. Again, the SON.
 - [Revelation 22:20](#): ““The one who bears witness of these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming quickly.’” “Amen! Come, Lord Jesus””
 - Our first speaker says he is coming quickly. Our second speaker responds, and identifies him as Jesus
 - [Revelation 22:12-13](#): “Look! I am coming quickly, and the reward I give is with me, to repay each one according to his work. I am the Al’pha and the O-me’ga, the first and the last, the beginning and the end”
 - This speaker is-
 - *Coming quickly*, so it is Jesus from Rev 22:20
 - *Repaying each one according to his works*, so it is Jesus from Matthew 16:27
 - *The Alpha and Omega*. Didn’t we say the Father for Rev 21:5-7?
 - Saying all of this at one time, so Jesus is the alpha and omega. Therefore it would follow Jesus=God=Father
- Case 2
 - [Psalm 102:1-2](#): “O Jehovah, hear my prayer; Let my cry for help reach you. Do not hide your face from me in my time of distress. Incline your ear to me Do answer me quickly when I call”
 - Who is this Psalm speaking to? Jehovah right?
 - [Psalm 102:24-27](#): “I said: “O my God, Do not do away with me in the middle of my life, You whose years span all generations. Long ago you laid the foundations of the earth, And the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; Just like a garment they will all wear out. Just like clothing you will replace them, and they will pass away. But you are the same, and your years will never end.”
 - This is addressed to Jehovah, talking about how he: created all things, is unchanging, and timeless. Anyone disagree?
 - [Hebrews 1:6-8](#): “But when he again brings his Firstborn into the inhabited earth, he says: “And let all of God’s angels do obeisance to him.” Also, he says about the angels: “He makes his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.” But about the Son, he says: “God is your throne forever and ever, and the scepter of your Kingdom is the scepter of uprightness.”
 - Pause here and ask “Who is this passage speaking about? The Son right?”
 - [Hebrews 1:9-12](#): “You loved righteousness, and you hated lawlessness. That is why God, your God, anointed you with the oil of exultation more than your companions.” And: “At the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; and just like a garment, they will all wear out, and you will wrap them up just as a cloak, as a garment, and they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never come to an end.”

