

The background is a dark blue technical drawing or blueprint. It features a grid of light blue lines. Overlaid on the grid are various geometric shapes and lines in a slightly lighter shade of blue. There are several concentric circles, some solid and some dashed. There are also straight lines, some solid and some dashed, intersecting at various angles. In the upper left, there are some faint labels like "180°" and "100". On the right side, there are some vertical labels like "100", "450", and "200". The overall appearance is that of a complex technical drawing or a blueprint.

FOUNDATIONS

STUDY GUIDE

*"The rain came down, the streams rose,
and the winds blew and beat against
that house; yet it did not fall, because
it had its **foundation** on the **rock**."*

MATTHEW 7:25 NIV

FOUNDATIONS OF THE ROCK STUDY GUIDE

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Session 3

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF FAITH

Church of the Rock asserts and holds to the following fundamental truths as the foundational doctrines of the kingdom of God.

1) The One True Eternal God

- a. There is one true eternal God, Creator of the universe, and Redeemer of mankind ([Deuteronomy 6:4](#), [Exodus 3:14](#), [Isaiah 43:10-11](#), [Psalm 90:2](#)).
- b. God has further revealed Himself as a triune being manifested as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ([Isaiah 48:16](#), [Matthew 28:19](#), [Luke 3:22](#), [2 Corinthians 13:14](#)).

(Isaiah 43:10-11 NIV) "You are my witnesses, declares the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior."

(Isaiah 48:16 NIV) "Come near me and listen to this: From the first announcement I have not spoken in secret; at the time it happens, I am there. And now the Sovereign LORD has sent me, with his Spirit."

(Luke 3:22 NIV) "and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'"

2) The Inspired Scriptures

The Scriptures, both Old and New Testament, are inspired of God, and comprise the infallible and authoritative Word of God to mankind. ([2 Timothy 3:15-17](#), [2 Peter 1:19-21](#)).

(2 Timothy 3:15-17 NIV) "and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

(2 Peter 1:19-21 NIV) "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. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

3) The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

- a. The Lord Jesus Christ is God as manifest to mankind, and shares in the divinity and deity of God ([Matthew 1:23](#), [John 5:22-23](#), [2 John 1:3](#), [Hebrews 1:1-13](#), [John 1:1-2](#), [John 20:28](#)).
- b. Christ lived a sinless life ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#), [Hebrews 4:15](#)).
- c. Christ performed divine miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit ([Acts 10:38](#)).
- d. Christ was born of a virgin ([Isaiah 7:14](#), [Matthew 1:23](#), [Luke 1:34](#)).

(Matthew 1:23 NIV) "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel --which means, God with us."

(John 1:1-2 NKJV) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."

(John 20:28 NKJV) "And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

(2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV) "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

(Hebrews 4:15 NIV) "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin."

4) Original Sin and the Fall of Man

- a. Adam and Eve were created good and upright before God ([Genesis 1:26-27](#)).
- b. The first man, Adam, through disobedience, fell from the grace of God, and thus sin entered into the world and spread to all men ([Romans 5:12](#)). Since the fall of Adam all mankind has been born with a sinful nature ([Ephesians 2:3](#)).

(Romans 5:12 NIV) "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."

(Ephesians 2:3 NKJV) "among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others."

5) The Existence and the Reality of Satan

Satan is a fallen angel, and an enemy of God and mankind ([Isaiah 14:12-16](#), [Ezekiel 28:12-16](#), [1 Peter 5:8](#), [1 John 3:8](#)).

(Isaiah 14:12-16 NIV) "How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit. Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: 'Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble'"

(1 Peter 5:8 NIV) Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

6) The Salvation of Mankind

- a. Mankind's only hope of salvation from the power and consequences of sin and death is through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, bringing us into life and victory in Christ ([1 Corinthians 15:55-57](#), [Acts 4:12](#), [Romans 5:8-13](#), [Romans 10:9-10](#), [James 1:21](#), [Ephesians 2:8](#)).
- b. Man's redemption was purchased through Jesus' substitutionary death, His bodily resurrection, and His ascension to the right hand of the Father ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#), [1 Corinthians 15:20-23](#), [Hebrews 8:1-6](#), [Hebrews 9:15-26](#)).

(1 Corinthians 15:55-57 NKJV) "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Acts 4:12 NIV) "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

(Romans 10:9-10 NIV) "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. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

(1 Corinthians 15:20-23 NIV) "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him."

7) Water Baptism

- a. Water baptism is an important symbolic identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ ([Romans 6:3-6](#), [Colossians 2:11-14](#)).
- b. Water baptism should be done by immersion ([Matthew 3:16](#), [John 3:23](#), [Acts 8:36-39](#)).
- c. Water baptism should be done into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ([Matthew 28:19](#)), and should be done in the name of Jesus ([Acts 8:16](#), [10:48](#)).

(Romans 6:3-6 NIV) "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. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin."

(Matthew 3:16 NIV) "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him."

(Matthew 28:19 NIV) "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."

(Acts 10:48 NIV) "So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."

8) Communion

- a. In communion the bread and fruit of the vine are symbolic of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ ([Luke 22:19-20](#)).
- b. We are encouraged to partake of these elements in remembrance of him ([1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#)).
- c. In partaking of the elements in the right manner, God gives the promise and hope of spiritual life, emotional strength and physical healing ([1 Corinthians 11:27-34](#), [Acts 2:46](#)).

9) The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

- a. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is evidenced by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance ([Acts 2:4](#), [19:6](#)).
- b. With the baptism in the Holy Spirit comes the receiving of the power of God ([Luke 24:49](#), [Acts 1:4-8](#)).
- c. The Holy Spirit also gives the manifestation of the spiritual gifts, and distributes to each one individually as He wills ([1 Corinthians 12:1-31](#)).
- d. This experience is subsequent to the experience of new birth and distinct from new birth and water baptism. ([Acts 8:12-17](#), [Acts 10:44-46](#), [Acts 11:14-15](#), [Acts 15:7-9](#), [John 20:22](#), [Acts 1:4-8](#)).

(Acts 2:4 NIV) "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them".

(Acts 19:6 NIV) "When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied."

(Acts 1:4-8 NIV) "On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So when they met together, they asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'"

(Acts 10:44-46 NIV) "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers

who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.”

10) Divine Healing

Divine healing was provided for and purchased in the redemptive work of Christ; it is an integral part of our new covenant ([Isaiah 53:4-5](#), [Matthew 8:16-17](#), [1 Peter 2:24](#), [Psalm 103:1-3](#), [James 5:14-16](#)).

(Isaiah 53:4-5 NIV) “Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

(1 Peter 2:24 NIV) “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”

11) The Resurrection of the Dead

- a. Christ will return in glory for His church: the dead in Christ will rise first, then those who remain shall be caught up (raptured) to meet the Lord in the air. The believer shall live and reign with Christ ([1 Thessalonians 4:16-17](#), [1 Corinthians 15:51-57](#), [2 Timothy 2:12](#), [Revelation 5:10](#)).
- b. The resurrection of the unbelieving shall be to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire ([Revelation 20:11-15](#)).

(1 Corinthians 15:51-57 NIV) “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(Revelation 20:11-15 NIV) “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the

book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

12) Marriage

- a. Marriage is a living reflection of the relationship between Christ and the church ([Ephesians 5:31-32](#)). A Christian marriage is characterized and governed by Christian principles that are taught in the Bible.
- b. Marriage is a sacred covenant between one naturally born man and one naturally born woman. Therefore, as a church, we do not recognize common-law or same-sex marriage ([Genesis 2:18-24](#), [Matthew 19:4-6](#), [Hebrews 13:4](#)).

For further clarification refer to the Statement of Marriage, Divorce and Re-marriage (see additional resources at the end of this handout).

13) Moral Issues

In all of its endeavours Church of the Rock seeks to glorify God The standard of conduct in lifestyle and morality of employees, volunteers, directors and voting members of Church of the Rock must be in conformity with the standards as set out in the Bible (Old Testament and New Testament) as interpreted and applied by the senior leadership of Church of the Rock.

The Scripture presents standards that express loving faithfulness and service to Christ as a condition of service whether as a volunteer, employee, director or voting member. With Church of the Rock, volunteers, employees, directors and voting members are expected to adhere to our code of conduct.

Church of the Rock rejects the following conduct, viewing it as being incompatible with biblical standards and values for personal lifestyle of anyone serving with Church of the Rock:

- a. **Abusive behaviour;** ([Leviticus 18](#); [1 Timothy 5:22](#); [1 John 3:3](#))
- b. **Breach of trust or confidence;** ([Matthew 5:3](#), [19:18](#); [Philippians 4:8](#); [1 John 3:3](#))

- c. **Criminal activity;** ([Exodus 20:12-17](#); [Matthew 5:37](#); [1 John 3:3](#))
- d. **Extra-marital sexual relationships** (adultery); ([Exodus 20:14](#); [Leviticus 18](#); [Romans 7:3](#); [1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 9-13](#); [Ephesians 5:3-5](#); [Hebrews 13:4](#))
- e. **Gambling behaviour:** habitual, compulsive or addictive ([Proverbs 15:27a](#))
- f. **Lying,** deceit or dishonesty; ([Matthew 5:3, 19:18](#); [Ephesians 4:25-29](#))
- g. **Occultic practices;** adherence to or participation in occultic activities ([Deuteronomy 18:10-11](#); [Acts 13:6-9](#); [Galatians 5:19-21](#))
- h. **Participation or involvement in pornography** including reading, viewing, or listening to pornographic material; ([Philippians 4:8](#); [Colossians 3:5](#); [1 John 3:3](#))
- i. **Premarital sexual relationships** (fornication); ([Acts 15:29](#); [Ephesians 5:3-5](#); [Hebrews 13:4](#))
- j. **Physical aggression;** ([Leviticus 18](#); [1 Timothy 5:22](#); [1 John 3:3](#))
- k. **Racist conduct** or expressing racist viewpoints; ([James 2:1-4](#); [Colossians 3:10-11](#))
- l. **Same-sex unions** or unions involving transsexual and transgendered individuals, practices and relationships, promotion or support of such activity or organization, or any other sexual activity or organization departing from biblical standards; ([Leviticus 18](#); [Romans 1:26-27](#); [1 Corinthians 10:8](#))
- m. **Substance abuse** including the abuse of alcohol and drugs; ([Philippians 4:8](#); [1 Timothy 5:22](#); [1 John 3:3](#))
- n. **Sexual assault, abuse, harassment;** ([Leviticus 18](#); [1 Timothy 5:22](#); [1 John 3:3](#))
- o. **Theft or fraud;** ([Exodus 20:15, 17](#); [Matthew 5:37](#))
- p. **Use of profane or abusive language;** ([Ephesians 4:29](#); [Colossians 3:8](#))
- q. **Other behaviours** or activities deemed inconsistent with biblical moral standards.

While the previous list is not exhaustive, it does outline areas of conduct deemed inconsistent with Christian conduct and Biblical standards. Consequences for breaching these will vary depending on the circumstances and may result in church discipline including termination from a role or office as a volunteer, employee, director or official leader. The assessment of behaviour as being contrary to these standards and values and the determination of the consequences for such behaviour within the context of the Church, is in the entire discretion of the governing elders of the church.

ACTION STEPS

[Psalm 92:13](#)

Participate in:

- 1) Discover Your Giftings (Transformations Course)**
- 2) Home Group or small relational group**
- 3) Acts of service by volunteering**

Review the following pages for these additional resources:

- The Bible (Core Value #6 - Biblical and Relevant)
- Church of the Rock Statement on Statement of Marriage, Divorce and Re-marriage

THE BIBLE

Core Value: BIBLICAL AND RELEVANT

The sixth core value of Church of the Rock is that **"The church should never compromise biblical truths and imperatives, yet at the same time, it should seek to be relevant to the needs of a modern world."** It is the desire of Church of the Rock that we would be able to apply the Word of God in a living way, so that though it was written over 1900 years ago, yet by the power of the Holy Spirit it still would be applicable to everyday living.

Inspiration of the Bible

There is no question that the Bible was written by men. The question is **"Were these men inspired by God when they wrote the Bible?"** The fact that men wrote the Bible does not invalidate the inspiration of the Scripture, just as an author using a computer to write a book does not attribute the authorship to the computer. Instead, the computer is the tool used by the author to record his thoughts. In the same way, humans, in obedience to the Holy Spirit, became the means which God used to accomplish the task of recording His thoughts.

The inspiration of the Bible means that it is the infallible revelation of God to man, rather than mere words of men to other men. In its entirety, the Bible is the Word of God in the sense that God, through the agency of the Holy Spirit, divinely directed and inspired the writing of it, and supernaturally controlled its overall construction, design, and contents.

The Scripture informs us: *"for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."* (2 Peter 1:21).

Though men wrote the scriptures, they wrote as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit to do so.

One sceptic, in trying to disprove the Bible's inspiration, realized that there was more unity within the scriptures than if you got ten people from the same locality, having similar backgrounds, speaking the same language, and having the same culture, and then separated these people and asked them to write on only one controversial subject, such as the meaning of life. The Bible deals with hundreds of subjects, yet there is complete unity within it.

The Purpose of the Bible

Jesus clearly stated that He was the central theme of the Bible. Jesus invites us to "...search the Scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). In Luke 24:27, concerning the ministry of Jesus, it is said that "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he [Jesus] expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. With Jesus as the central theme, God has written to us to teach us all we need to know about Him and about life. The Scriptures show us how God and mankind are to function in relationship.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 declares that "All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (NIV). The Scriptures are to guide us through life, helping us to walk in successful maturity.

In His Word, God reveals:

- a) His love for us ([John 3:16](#)).
- b) His purposes for us ([Ephesians 2:10](#); [Ephesians 1:17–18](#)).
- c) His abiding fellowship ([Matthew 28:20](#); [Hebrews 13:5](#)).
- d) His means of salvation ([John 3:16](#); [Romans 10:9–13](#)).
- e) How to relate to God Himself ([Matthew 6:5–15](#); [Psalm 47:1](#); [Psalm 100:4](#); [John 4:22–24](#)).
- f) His priorities for us ([Matthew 6:33](#), [Colossians 3:1–2](#)).

God's Word, when applied and obeyed, produces:

- a) Freedom from the bondage of incorrect living ([John 8:32](#)).
- b) God's blessing ([Deuteronomy 28:1–14](#)), while disobedience produces curses ([Deuteronomy 28:15–68](#)).
- c) Success ([Joshua 1:8](#)).

The Logos and the Rhema Word

In the Koine Greek language used to write the New Testament, there are two words used to represent our English word for "word." Many Bible expositors refer to the **logos** as the written Word of God, which reveals the will and purposes of God in general ways. For example, Jesus "*preached the word* [logos] *unto them*" (Mark 2:2). This word is also used to refer to Jesus: "*the Word* [logos] *became flesh and dwelt among us*" (John 1:14). It was used when speaking of God's Word in its entirety. The logos Word has great power even in its general form. For instance, in Matthew 8:8, the centurion in humility asked Jesus to

"only speak a word [logos] and my servant will be healed." Hebrew 4:12 states: *"the word [logos] of God is living and powerful..."*

The other word, **rhema**, was translated also as "word" in English, but it usually denotes that which is spoken or written for a specific instance in the lives of people. Matthew 4:4 reads: *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word [rhema] that proceeds from the mouth of God."* This tells us how we must allow God to speak personally to us so that we receive words of life for our situations.

There is great power in receiving the rhema word of God. Mary states in Luke 1:37, *"For with God nothing will be impossible."* Literally, in the Greek, this verse means "no word [rhema] from God shall be without power". This verse encourages us to trust the rhema word which God gives to us, for it is a source of great strength from God to us. Our response to God's rhema word ought to be like Mary's—*"Let it be to me according to your word [rhema]"* (Luke 1:38)—submission and willingness to respond to what God has said.

From the following verses, we see that the living rhema word was consequential to the hearing of the logos word. We can receive rhema words from God as we allow the Holy Spirit to quicken or show forth sections of the logos word.

- In Acts 10:44, we are shown that, *"While Peter was still speaking these words [rhema], the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word [logos]."*
- In Hebrews 12:19, we are told that we are not brought into the Old Testament situation where there was *"the voice of words [rhema], so that those who heard it begged that the word [logos] should not be spoken to them anymore."*

The Power of the Word of God

- [2 Peter 1:16–19](#) asserts that the written Word of God is more certain than the Word which was spoken by God and heard by the disciples when on the mount of transfiguration. As glorious as that event was ([Mark 9:2–13](#)), and as unique as it may have seemed in having God the Father speak from heaven, this written Word is even more important, and we are urged to pay attention to it.
- [Romans 12:2](#) reminds us that we are transformed or changed by allowing our minds to be renewed. [Colossians 3:10](#) affirms that our new self is being renewed in knowledge after the image of God. Many times believers wish that they would be changed, yet they fail to realize the power of the Word of God to change individuals.

- [Romans 10:17](#) tells us that faith comes by hearing the Word of God.
- [Isaiah 55:10-11](#) teaches that God's Word is so powerful that it will always accomplish that for which it was sent. His Word will not return without having some effect upon the situation to which it applies; it will not return void.
- Just as the Word of God is powerful, so also when the Word of God comes from our mouths there is great power released. [Proverbs 18:21](#) proclaims that the tongue has the power of life and death. Jesus encourages us to speak to the mountains of the situations around us ([Mark 11:23](#), [Joshua 1:8](#)).
- The Word of God is that which quickens or revives us. ([Psalm 119:25, 37, 40, 88, 107, 149, 154, 156, 159](#)).

Practical Steps for Reading the Bible

- 1) Ask God to speak by His Spirit through the Scriptures. Anticipate that God will speak to personal situations through the Scriptures.
- 2) Read the Bible daily. Schedule regular time intervals for reading the Scriptures.
- 3) Follow a systematic method of reading that covers the Old and the New Testament. Don't allow yourself to get bogged down in a section of Scripture that seems dry and meaningless; perhaps alternate between Old and New Testaments.
- 4) Meditate on the scriptures so that their full application can be brought into use.
- 5) Memorize meaningful scriptures so that they are always accessible to you.
- 6) Using Bible handbooks and Bible dictionaries may help you to understand difficult passages by providing background information and clarifying definitions, etc.

Organization of the Bible

The Bible, as one large volume of books, is divided into two main groups of smaller books. The first grouping of these is the Old Testament, which consists of books written before the birth of Jesus Christ. The second set of books is the

New Testament, which consists of the books written after the time of Jesus Christ.

OLD TESTAMENT

<i>Genesis</i>	<i>1 Samuel</i>	<i>Esther</i>	<i>Jeremiah</i>	<i>Jonah</i>
<i>Exodus</i>	<i>2 Samuel</i>	<i>Job</i>	<i>Lamentations</i>	<i>Micah</i>
<i>Leviticus</i>	<i>1 Kings</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Ezekiel</i>	<i>Nahum</i>
<i>Numbers</i>	<i>2 Kings</i>	<i>Proverbs</i>	<i>Daniel</i>	<i>Habakkuk</i>
<i>Deuteronomy</i>	<i>1 Chronicles</i>	<i>Ecclesiastes</i>	<i>Hosea</i>	<i>Zephaniah</i>
<i>Joshua</i>	<i>2 Chronicles</i>	<i>Song of Solomon</i>	<i>Joel</i>	<i>Haggai</i>
<i>Judges</i>	<i>Ezra</i>		<i>Amos</i>	<i>Zechariah</i>
<i>Ruth</i>	<i>Nehemiah</i>	<i>Isaiah</i>	<i>Obadiah</i>	<i>Malachi</i>

NEW TESTAMENT

<i>Matthew</i>	<i>1 Corinthians</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians</i>	<i>Hebrews</i>	<i>3 John</i>
<i>Mark</i>	<i>2 Corinthians</i>	<i>2 Thessalonians</i>	<i>James</i>	<i>Jude</i>
<i>Luke</i>	<i>Galatians</i>	<i>1 Timothy</i>	<i>1 Peter</i>	<i>Revelation</i>
<i>John</i>	<i>Ephesians</i>	<i>2 Timothy</i>	<i>2 Peter</i>	
<i>Acts</i>	<i>Philippians</i>	<i>Titus</i>	<i>1 John</i>	
<i>Romans</i>	<i>Colossians</i>	<i>Philemon</i>	<i>2 John</i>	

The Old Testament consists of 39 different books which cover the history and writings starting at the creation of the world till a period of about 500 BC. Of these 39 books, the first 17 are historical in nature, the next 5 are poetical and the last 17 are prophetic in nature. These books can be further divided as follows:

Genesis–Deuteronomy	Pentateuch - 5 books of Moses - historical
Joshua–Esther	12 Historical books 9 occupying the land (pre-exile) 3 the remnant after land is conquered (post-exile)
Job–Song of Solomon	5 Poetical books - experiential in nature
Isaiah–Daniel	5 Major Prophets, of which Isaiah & Jeremiah are pre-exile Lamentations is in between Ezekiel and Daniel are prophets of the exile
Hosea–Micah	12 Minor Prophets - 9 are pre-exile 3 are post-exile (Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)

The New Testament consists of 27 books which cover the birth, life, and ministry of Jesus; the history of the early church; and the doctrinal writings. These 27 books can be further divided into:

Matthew–John	the four gospels -birth, life, death & resurrection of Jesus
Acts of the Apostles	how the Holy Spirit worked through the early church
Romans–Colossians	7 doctrinal letters to churches
1 Thessalonians–Philemon	6 pastoral and personal letters to individuals
Hebrews–Revelation	9 epistles written to Hebrew Christians

- The Old Testament sets the preparation for the work of Jesus ([Isaiah 40:3](#)).
- The gospels are the manifestation of Jesus and His work ([John 1:29](#)).
- The book of Acts is the propagation of the continued work of Jesus Christ ([Acts 1:8](#)).
- The epistles give the explanation for the work of Jesus ([Colossians 1:27](#)).
- The book of Revelation is the consummation of the work of Jesus ([Revelation 1:7](#)).

The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years by around 40 different authors. These men lived in different regions of the Middle East and wrote in the languages of Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic. The writers had diverse occupations: some were shepherds, others were rulers, still others were fishermen, doctors, kings, prophets, tax-collectors, and tentmakers. Though each of the books are different, these men all speak with great consistency of the one central message: **God working to bring mankind back into fellowship with Him.**

The Uniqueness of the Scriptures

- During the 18th century, Voltaire confidently boasted of the eventual extinction of Christianity and the Bible. However, only fifty years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society used his press and house to produce countless Bibles.
- George Washington said, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

- Charles Dickens said, "The New Testament is the very best that ever was or ever will be known in the world."
- Sir Isaac Newton said, "There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history."
- Napoleon said, "The Bible is no mere book, but a living creature, with a power that conquers all that oppose it."

Compared to other ancient writings, such as Homer's *Iliad* or Caesar's *Gallic Wars*, **the Bible has more evidence supporting its reliability and accuracy of translation than any ten pieces of ancient literature combined!**¹

The prophetic fulfilment of the Scriptures is strong proof of the authenticity of the Word of God. Professor Peter W. Stoner used the law of compound probabilities to calculate the possibility of having one single individual fulfill only eight prophecies relating to Christ. He computed the odds at 1 in 10¹⁷. This would be the equivalent of covering the entire state of Texas 2 feet deep in loonies, specifically marking one of them, and instructing a blindfolded man to pick the right loonie on the first try. The odds of one person fulfilling 16 prophecies relating to Christ is calculated at 1 in 10⁴⁵. In other words, it is the same as if one were to take 10⁴⁵ loonies and make a ball in radius 30 times farther out than the sun is from the earth and ask a blindfolded person to pick one specially marked loonie from that ball.² Jesus fulfilled over 330 distinct prophecies concerning His life and ministry!³

Biblical fulfilment of prophecy is an important aspect of proving the validity of the Scriptures. God uses biblical prophecy to let us know that He exists and that He has a plan for this world. The foretelling of persons, places, and events hundreds of years before their occurrence demonstrates a knowledge of the future too precise to be a guess. God Himself declares that He uses prophecy to show that His ability is far above that which others might attribute to "idols." Isaiah 48:3, 5 reveals: *"Therefore I told you these things long ago; before they happened I announced them to you so that you could not say, 'My idol did them'"* (Also [Isaiah 46:9-10](#), [Romans 1:1-4](#)).

The following are 27 selected examples of over 300 distinct prophecies relating to Christ:

- **born in Bethlehem** – [Micah 5:2](#), [Luke 2:4-7](#)
- **born of the tribe of Judah** – [Genesis 49:10](#), [Luke 3:23-33](#)
- **born of a virgin** – [Isaiah 7:14](#), [Matthew 1:18, 24-25](#)

¹ McDowell, Josh. *Evidence That Demands A Verdict: Historical Evidences for the Christian Faith*. San Bernardino, CA: Campus Crusade for Christ International, 1972. pp. 19, 39-46.

² Stoner, Peter W. *Science Speaks: An Evaluation of Certain Christian Evidences*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1963. pp. 99-112.

³ Hamilton, Floyd. *The Basics of Christian Faith*. New York: Harper, 1964. p. 160.

- **referred to as Immanuel** – [Isaiah 7:14](#), [Matthew 1:23](#)
- **He would be a king** – [Psalm 2:6](#), [Matthew 27:37](#)
- **He would be preceded by a messenger** – [Isaiah 40:3](#), [Matthew 3:1-2](#)
- **entered Jerusalem on a donkey** – [Zechariah 9:9](#), [Luke 19:35-37a](#)
- **rejected by His own people** – [Isaiah 53:3](#), [John 7:5, 48](#)
- **betrayed by a friend** – [Psalm 41:9](#), [Matthew 10:4](#)
- **betrayed for 30 pieces of silver** – [Zechariah 11:12](#), [Matthew 26:15](#)
- **silver thrown into temple** – [Zechariah 11:13b](#), [Matthew 27:5a](#)
- **money used to purchase a potter's field** – [Zechariah 11:3b](#), [Matthew 27:7](#)
- **forsaken by His disciples** – [Zechariah 13:7](#), [Mark 14:50](#)
- **wounded and bruised** – [Isaiah 53:5](#), [Matthew 27:26](#)
- **smitten and spit upon** – [Isaiah 50:6](#), [Matthew 26:67](#)
- **mocked** – [Psalm 20:7-8](#), [Matthew 27:31](#)
- **didn't answer His accusers** – [Isaiah 53:7](#), [Matthew 27:12-19](#)
- **hands and feet pierced** – [Psalm 22:16](#), [Luke 23:33](#)
- **crucified with thieves** – [Isaiah 53:12](#), [Matthew 27:38](#)
- **made intercession for His persecutors** – [Isaiah 53:12](#), [Luke 23:34](#)
- **lots cast for His garments** – [Psalm 22:18](#), [John 19:23-24](#)
- **given gall and vinegar to drink** – [Psalm 69:21](#), [Matthew 27:34](#)
- **bones weren't broken** – [Psalm 34:20](#), [John 19:33](#)
- **His side pierced** – [Zechariah 12:10](#), [John 19:34](#)
- **buried in a rich man's tomb** – [Isaiah 53:9](#), [Matthew 27:57-60](#)
- **ascended to God** – [Psalm 68:18](#), [Acts 1:9](#)

CHURCH OF THE ROCK™

STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

Marriage is a living reflection of the relationship between Christ and the church. A Christian marriage is characterized and governed by Christian principles that are taught in the Bible.

[\(Eph 5:31-32\)](#) “Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.” [\(1 Cor 13:4-8\)](#)

Church of the Rock (COTR) defines Christian marriage as:

A sacred covenant between one naturally born man and one naturally born woman. Therefore, as a church, we do not recognize common-law or same-sex marriage. [\(Gen 2: 18-24; Matt 19:4-6, Heb 13:4\)](#)

Scripture is clear that marriage is sacred and God hates divorce. [\(Matt 19:6; Mal 2:14-16\)](#)

1. Marriage Between Two Christians

- a) Divorce is not an option for this couple and, if separated, both partners have a responsibility to avail themselves to reconciliation. [\(Matt 19:6; 1 Cor 7:10-11\)](#)
- b) In the case of adultery, we would encourage the process of repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation.
 - 1) We would encourage the faithful spouse to work towards and wait for reconciliation only until the point where the unfaithful spouse initiated divorce and remarried.
 - 2) We would discourage the faithful spouse from initiating a divorce even if their adulterous spouse remains unfaithful. [\(1 Cor 7:10-11\)](#)
 - There may be circumstances in which we might remarry the faithful spouse who initiated the divorce, if they demonstrated personal healing and restoration as well as having clearly recognized and repented for their part in the marital failure.
 - If, however, an adulterous spouse divorces a faithful spouse: [\(Matt 19:8-9\)](#)
 - We may remarry the faithful spouse after an appropriate time of healing and processing. [\(Matt 19:8-9\)](#)

- We would not remarry the adulterous spouse.

2. Marriage Between a Christian and a Non-Christian

- a) We would encourage the Christian spouse to stay in the marriage even if it was less than ideal. ([1 Cor 7:10-13](#))
- b) We would encourage the Christian spouse to work towards healthy reconciliation of the marriage if they were separated. ([1 Cor 7:10-11](#))
- c) We would discourage the Christian spouse against initiating a divorce, thereby leaving the door open for God to work in the non-Christian's life. ([1 Cor 7:10-15](#))
- d) We would discourage the Christian spouse from divorcing the non-Christian spouse if the non-Christian spouse was unfaithful.
 - 1) There may be circumstances in which we might remarry the faithful spouse who initiated the divorce, if they demonstrated personal healing and restoration as well as having clearly recognized and repented for their part in the marital failure.
- e) Once a Christian is divorced by a non-Christian, we would no longer encourage the Christian to work towards the restoration of that marriage. (We would, however, not prohibit them doing so.) ([2 Cor 6:14-15](#))
- f) We would not perform a wedding between a Christian and a non-Christian. ([2 Cor 6:14-15](#))

3. Marriage Between Two Non-Christians

- a) It is unrealistic for us to hold non-Christians responsible for God's laws regarding marriage. Therefore we would marry a person who was divorced as a non-Christian and now, as a Christian, desires to marry another Christian.

COTR values the importance of healthy and fulfilling marriage relationships, therefore COTR strives and works towards strengthening and developing marriages. COTR realizes that life and relationships are complex. Pastoral leadership should help process each situation in an upright, merciful and godly manner. COTR realizes that the grace and power of God is available in the midst of uncompromised truth, therefore, it is always to one's advantage to strive for a higher standard.

CHURCH OF THE ROCK™

STATEMENT ON THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Church of the Rock affirms that all human life is sacred. Scripture teaches that every human being is created in the image of God. ([Genesis 1:26-27](#)) Further it asserts that every individual is known by God from before the foundation of the world ([Jeremiah 1:4-5](#), [Psalm 139:13-17](#)).

It is our understanding from Scripture that life, or at the very least the potential of future life, begins at conception. Therefore human life is not more sacred at one point than another. Since all life exists for God's purposes and all human lives are equally sacred, it is our belief that only God has the right to terminate innocent life.⁴ (This statement acknowledges that an argument could be made that Capital punishment⁵ and/or Just War⁶ may not be prohibited by Scripture.)

Therefore as a church we would oppose induced abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, murder, or any shedding of innocent blood ([Proverbs 6:16-17](#), [Exodus 20:13](#), [Exodus 21:22-25](#)). That being said, God is gracious and His mercy endures forever. We will always endeavor to extend grace, dignity, and forgiveness to those that in their past have found themselves on the wrong side of this moral imperative.

⁴ Our position could be described as similar to what is known as the *Consistent Life Ethic* which opposes abortion, infanticide, capital punishment, assisted suicide, euthanasia, and unjust war.

⁵ *Contra Faustum Manichaeum* – Saint Augustine

⁶ *City of God* – Saint Augustine