



**bap-tist**  
*Distinctives*



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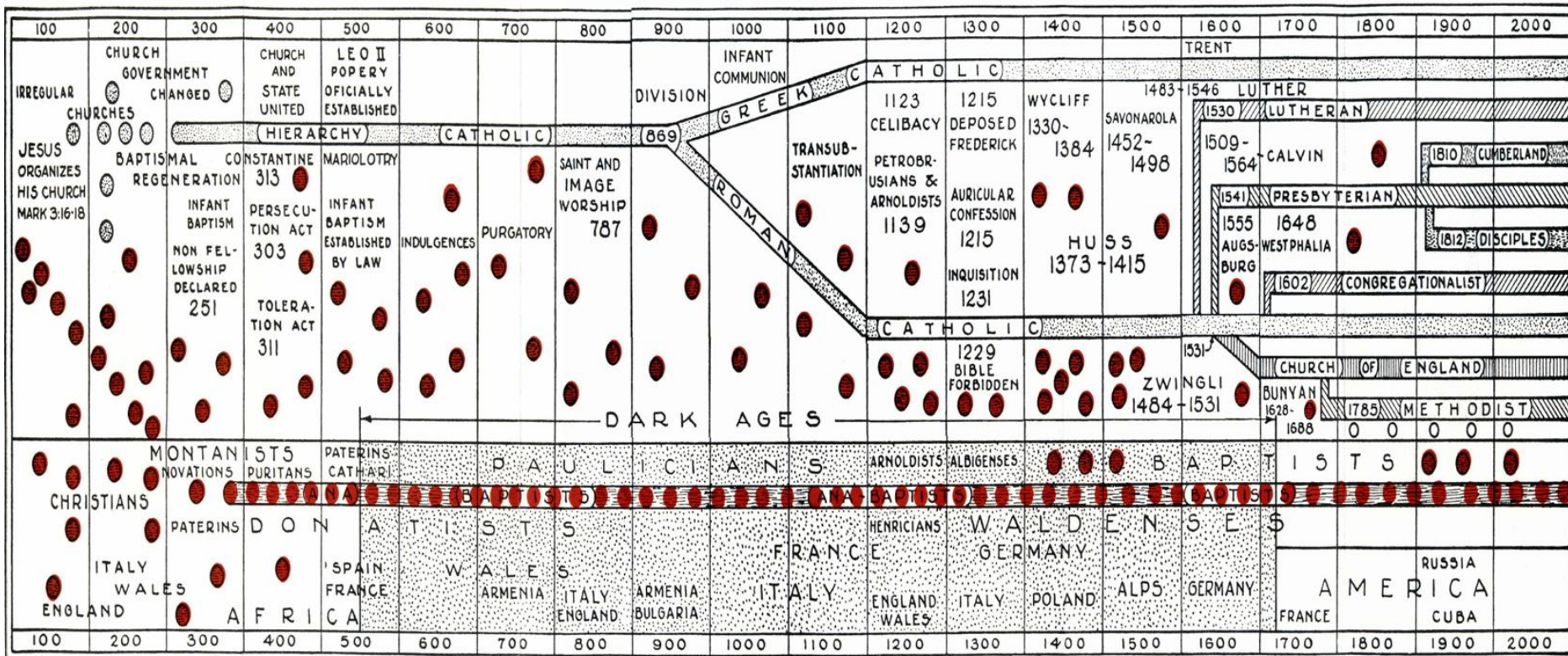
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# THE TRAIL OF BLOOD By DR. J. M. CARROLL



## EXPLANATION OF THE CHART

By DR. J. M. CARROLL.

ILLUSTRATING the History of the Baptist Churches from the time of their founder, the Lord Jesus Christ, until the 20th Century.

1. The purpose of this book and chart is to show according to History that Baptists have an unbroken line of churches since Christ and have fulfilled His prophecy — "I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT." In the irregular churches is clearly seen the growth of Catholicism and Protestantism. Baptists are not Protestants since they did not come out of the Catholic Church.

2. The numbers at the top and bottom represent 20 centuries. The first vertical line is A.D. 1, and the second, A.D. 100, and so on.

3. The horizontal lines at the bottom have between them the nicknames given to Baptists during the passing years and ages — Novatians, Montanists, Paulicans and Waldenses.

4. THE RED CIRCLES REPRESENT BAPTIST CHURCHES beginning with the first Church at Jerusalem, founded by Christ during His earthly ministry, and out of which came the churches of Judea, Antioch and others. The red indicates they were persecuted. In spite of the bitterest opposition and persecution Baptist Churches are found in every age. The first nickname given them was "Christians," the next Ana-Baptists, and so on. You will notice that the dark ages are represented by a dark space. Even

during this time you will notice a continual line of churches called Ana-Baptists. They were continually and bitterly persecuted even unto death by the Catholics. Near the first of the 16th Century the Ana was dropped and they were simply called Baptists.

5. THE BLACK CIRCLES REPRESENT CHURCHES INTO WHICH ERROR CAME AND ARE THEREFORE CALLED — IRREGULAR CHURCHES. The first error was in church Government — Pastors assumed authority not given them by Christ. Pastors of larger churches claimed authority over other and smaller churches. Thus in the 3rd Century the Roman Hierarchy was established. The Emperor Constantine issued a call in 313 inviting all churches to send representatives to form a council. The red churches — that is Baptist Churches — refused the invitation but the irregular churches responded. The

Emperor was made the head and thus the group of churches known as irregular churches became the State Church. The Emperor continued to head the churches until Leo II claimed authority as the successor of Peter. Thus is seen how the error in church Government developed into Popery. In the 16th Century the Protestant Churches began to come out of the Roman Catholic Church. They are called Protestants because they protested against the errors of Catholicism.

6. It was in the year 251 that Baptist Churches declared nonfellowship with the irregular churches. They refused to accept Baptism administered in infancy or for Salvation and thus came the older nickname — Ana-Baptists which means rebaptizers.

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# BAPTIST DISTINCTIVES

## C. H. SPURGEON ON THE BAPTISTS

"We believe that the Baptists are the original Christians. We did not commence our existence at the reformation, we were reformers before Luther or Calvin were born; we never came from the Church of Rome, for we were never in it, but we have an unbroken line up to the apostles themselves. We have always existed from the very days of Christ, and our principles, sometimes veiled and forgotten, like a river which may travel underground for a little season, have always had honest and holy adherents. Persecuted alike by Romanists and Protestants of almost every sect, yet there has never existed a Government holding Baptist principles which persecuted others; nor I believe any body of Baptists ever held it to be right to put the consciences of others under the control of man. We have ever been ready to suffer, as our martyrologies will prove, but we are not ready to accept any help from the State, to prostitute the purity of the Bride of Christ to any alliance with the government, and we will never make the Church, although the Queen, the despot over the consciences of men". (From The New Park Street Pulpit, Vol.VII, Page 225).



# SPURGEON ON BAPTIST HISTORY

"History has hitherto been written by our enemies, who never would have kept a single fact about us upon the record if they could have helped it, and yet it leaks out every now and then that certain poor people called Anabaptists were brought up for condemnation. From the days of Henry II to those of Elizabeth we hear of certain unhappy heretics who were hated of all men for the truth's sake which was in them. We read of poor men and women, with their garments cut short, turned out into the fields to perish in the cold, and anon of others who were burnt at Newington for the crime of Anabaptism. Long before your Protestants were known of, these horrible Anabaptists, as they were unjustly called, were protesting for the 'one Lord, one faith, and one baptism.' No sooner did the visible church begin to depart from the gospel than these men arose to keep fast by the good old way. The priests and monks wished for peace and slumber, but there was always a Baptist or a Lollard tickling men's ears with holy Scriptures, and calling their attention to the errors of the times. They were a poor persecuted tribe. The halter was thought to be too good for them. At times ill-written history would have us think that they died out, so well had the wolf done his work on the sheep. Yet here we are, blessed and multiplied; and Newington sees other scenes from Sabbath to Sabbath.

As I think of your numbers and efforts, I can only say in wonder - what a growth! As I think of the multitudes of our brethren in America, I may well say, What hath God wrought! Our history forbids discouragement." **(From the Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, 1881, Vol. 27, page 249.)**

# BAPTIST - THE NAMES

The name "Baptist" has not always and very likely will not always be the name of Bible Believing people. Though the origin of the name comes personally from John the Baptist and from the belief in believers baptism by immersion, these are not truly the origin of Baptist people. Baptists find their origin in the person of Jesus Christ and their allegiance to him and his doctrine.

## ORIGIN

<b>John the Baptist</b>	John 1:6-7	A man sent from God, whose name was John. <b>Purpose:</b> To bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.
<b>Ascribed Surname</b>	Luke 7:20	Like the name Christian, the name Baptist was given to John by the world to describe him.

## THE TRAIL OF NAMES

<b>Christian</b>	Acts 11:26	They were called Christians first at <b>Antioch</b> .
* The starting place of the ministry of Saul/Paul and Barnabas		
* The place of origin for our source Bible texts for fundamental Christianity.		
* A name of aspersions. They spoke of them as " <i>little Christ's</i> " - Identifying disciples or adherents to the teachings of Jesus Christ.		
* <i>The name "Christian" has become an umbrella to include all people within Christendom and no longer only defines truly born again people. To adequately describe a believer in Jesus Christ, we now must clarify what "kind" of Christian we are. This name is the root of Bible-Believers and also shows that the names change through the centuries.</i>		



# BAPTIST - THE NAMES

## THE WORST EVENT IN CHURCH HISTORY

**The Edict of Milan** - In February of 313 AD, Constantine the Great, Emperor of Rome, decriminalized the Christian and thus began to marry church and state. Though this seemed to offer new freedoms to Christians, it also subjected Bible Doctrine to political whims. The result of the Edict of Milan gave birth to Catholicism and forced Bible Christianity under ground.

*After the name Christian ceased to be an effective tool to describe Bible-believing people, there were many sects that arose that identified with many of the primary modern Baptist beliefs.*

**Montanists** - They held to baptism by immersion, the acceptance of the complete Word of God and premillennial eschatology. Montanus required re-baptism of those who came from corrupt churches.

**Donatists** - They were linked to latter day Anabaptists and demanded doctrinal and ecclesiastical purity and would not accept infant baptism.

**Paulicians** - Their name is derived from their frequent citation of the writings of the Apostle Paul. They were centered around the region of Armenia and endured both Muslim and Catholic persecution. They accepted biblical authority, believers baptism and rejected church hierarchy, ceremonialism and image worship. They had great influence in their day.

**Albigenses** - Originating in France, the Albigenses were descendants of the Paulicians in Armenia. They accepted scriptural authority, rejected the centralized Roman church along with infant baptism.

# BAPTIST - THE NAMES

**Waldenses** - The Waldenses were perhaps the greatest Bible missionaries over the course of many centuries. They had their origins in a group of itinerant preachers of the Gospel. They accepted biblical authority, believed in salvation by grace while rejecting the works salvation of Catholicism. They rejected the Roman Catholic Church in general along with infant baptism, the veneration of Mary, indulgences, prayers to the saints and the use of images.

**Lollards** - Founded by a preacher named Walter Lollard. They preached salvation by grace, rejected infant baptism and other man-made traditions of the Catholic Church.

**John Wycliffe** - The Morningstar of the Reformation. He believed in the sole authority of Scripture. He strongly denounced the false teaching of the infallibility of the pope. He believed in independent church, the separation of church and state, justification by faith and renounced infant baptism. When he was forbidden to preach by the Bishop of London, Wycliffe turned to translating the Bible into English.

**Anabaptists** - The name implies "re-baptism". The Anabaptists strongly disliked this title because they did not accept infant baptism as a legitimate baptism. They believed in believer's baptism and strongly believed in the separation of church and state. The name rose along side the Protestant reformers and were persecuted by Protestants and Catholics.

**Baptists** - The modern term of Baptist had its purest origins in England and its greatest expansion in the United States of America. The United States is the only nation to adopt Baptist principles of separation of church and state to its government.



# BAPTIST - ACROSTIC

For years Baptists have defined the core set of the Baptist belief system by the acrostic of the name "baptist". The Baptist system of belief does not begin in "Baptist Doctrine" but rather in the very foundations of the Word of God. For a Baptist it does not matter what we "Think", "Feel", or "Believe" but rather in the simple statement, "The Bible Says".

## THE FUNDAMENTALS OF BIBLE BELIEVING PEOPLE

*These simple truths define and separate true "Christians" and false "Christendom". They do not determine salvation but rather determine doctrinal orthodoxy.*

**B** - Bible Authority

**A** - Autonomy of the Local Church

**P** - Priesthood of the Believer

**T** - Two Ordinances: Believer's Baptist and the Lord's Supper

**I** - Individual Soul Liberty

**S** - Saved Church Membership

**T** - Two Offices - Pastor and Deacon

# BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

To a Baptist, Biblical authority seems to be a simple, accepted principle but that could not be further from the norm within Christendom. The vast majority of those who claim the name of Christ would add the authority of church fathers and tradition to the plain truths of scripture.

<b>DISTINCTIVE</b>	<b>TEXT</b>	<b>PRINCIPLE</b>
<b>The Source of the Word of God</b>	II Timothy 3:16	All scripture is given by inspiration of God. 1) Doctrine, 2) Reproof, 3) Correction, 4) Instruction in Righteousness
	II Peter 1:21	The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.
<b>Confidence in the Word of God</b>	John 17:17	Thy word is truth.
<b>Settled In Heaven</b>	Psalms 119:89	Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.
<b>Pure on Earth</b>	Psalms 12:6	The words of the LORD are pure words
<b>Preserved Forever</b>	Psalms 12:7	Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.
<b>Foundation of Faith</b>	Romans 10:17	Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.
	Ephesians 6:17	The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.
<b>The Word is Complete</b>	Revelation 22:18-19	We must never add to or take away from the Word.



# BIBLICAL AUTHORITY - POSITIONS

Even though Baptists accept biblical authority, there is a wide spectrum of positions on the role of the Bible in the life of the church and the Christian. Nearly all religions elevate the Bible to a position of respect but then undermine it by granting authority to other positions as well.

## ROMAN CATHOLICISM

*“The Catholic view is to make the edicts of councils, statements of popes and traditions of the church equal with the authority of the Bible. Their view is that their church produced the Bible and so it has the authority to add to or take from it.”* Mike Randall

**Baptist Response:** No word of man can ever be considered equal to the Word of God. God's revelation is complete with no need of addition or subtractions.

## PROTESTANT

Most Protestant denominations have forsaken the position of Biblical authority which was originally adopted by the Reformers and instead elevated reason, modern science and philosophy to a position equal to or superior to the Bible. The Reformers famously cried, “*Sola Scriptura*” yet on many issues they surrendered to Catholic dogma over Bible doctrine.

**Baptist Response:** If we claim biblical authority then we must surrender to Bible doctrine.

## PENTECOSTAL OR CHARISMATIC VIEW

Charismatics typically believe in extra-biblical revelation such as speaking in tongues, interpreting of tongues, a word of knowledge and other “*gifts*” of extra-biblical revelation.

**Baptist Response:** The Word of God is complete and the gifts of tongues and new revelation are in sharp contradiction to Bible doctrine.

# AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

There is only one church and only one head of the church, Jesus Christ. Denominationalism is not found in the Bible but local, independent, autonomous churches are. The pattern that we find in the scriptures is churches that are independent yet not isolated but are still self-governing and mutually supportive.

“A” Church - The local assembly of baptized believers who have voluntarily joined themselves together to carry out the Great Commission.

- 1) “A” local church has a saved membership. Acts 2:41-47
- 2) “A” local church has a baptized membership. Acts 2:41-47, 19:1-5
- 3) “A” local church has a pastor. Titus 1:5, I Timothy 3:1-7, Philippians 2:19-20
- 4) “A” local church is autonomous and free from external authority. Acts 13:1-4, Romans 16:1, I Corinthians 5:4-7
- 5) In “A” local church, God sets the members, not man. Acts 2:47, I Corinthians 12:18
- 6) There is no such thing as a functioning universal church. God has chosen to fulfill his plan for this world through local churches.

*There is no way for a church to function universally. A local assembly is God's plan.*

# AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

***“The” Church*** - Also known as the body of Christ. This is the group of believers that have been saved, have the indwelling Holy Spirit and will be caught up to *“meet the Lord in the air”* at the rapture of the church.

- 1) *“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...For the body is not one member, but many.”* (I Corinthians 12:12-14)
- 2) *“The” church will not exist in function before the rapture of the church* (I Thessalonians 4:13-18) and will attain its final place as the Bride of Christ at the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19).
- 3) As God’s plan is that one man only have one wife, so does Christ only have one bride.

*“The” church identifies the saved of every nation and generation but it does not identify God’s means of functioning in the world. God functions through local autonomous churches.*

***God has miraculously preserved his truth by the plurality and diversity of independent churches. A hierarchical organization can and will be corrupted but as churches are born and die, God uses them to preserve truth in the remnant pockets across the world.***

# PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER

One of the great insults to Baptist people through the centuries is that a person needs another person to have access to God. When we proclaim that every believer is a priest and they can come directly to God of our own volition and power, we declare a Baptist essential.

One Mediator	I Timothy 2:5	Relationship: Between God and man The Mediator: Christ Jesus
		<i>* It is in every way heretical to declare that any other person but Jesus Christ is necessary for a saved person to speak directly to God under any circumstance and any condition.</i>
	Matthew 23:9	Call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.
Our Access	Hebrews 4:16	Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
	<u>Location &amp; Means</u> Hebrews 10:19	Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.
Our Priesthood	I Peter 2:9 Revelation 1:6 Ephesians 2:18	But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood And hath made us kings and priest unto God For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.
	Ephesians 3:12	In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

**The Ministry of  
the Priest was  
Access to God**



# TWO ORDINANCES - COMMUNION

When we speak of an ordinance of the church, we speak of something that is part of our liturgy and we are given instruction in the scriptures to continue them. The two ordinances found in the scriptures are Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper or communion.

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

Origin in the Passover Matthew 26:18 I will keep the Passover...with my disciples.

**Transitions:** Matthew 26:26 Bread - Take eat this is my body.

Matthew 26:27-28 Cup - This is my blood of the new testament

*\* We would renounce the doctrine of transubstantiation which declares that in the Lord's Supper, the elements become the literal body and blood of Christ. We instruct that the elements are a picture of the sacrifice of Christ for us.*

*\* Although the framework of the Lord's Supper is found in the Passover, we do not in reality keep the Passover. I Corinthians 5:7 - Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.*

An Ordinance Passed On I Corinthians 11:23 1) I received of the Lord  
2) That which also I delivered unto you

*Example in the Passover* 3) The Lord Jesus... took bread

Purpose 1) This do in remembrance of me. I Corinthians 11:24-25  
2) Ye do show the Lord's death till he come. I Corinthians 11:27  
3) Let a man examine himself. I Corinthians 11:28

**Understanding:** *If we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned. I Corinthians 11:31-32*

# TWO ORDINANCES - BAPTISM

When we assume the name “Baptist”, it is also assumed that we would make baptism a clear part of doctrine. We must understand the purpose, the method and the necessity of baptism.

The Example of Christ	Mark 1:7 Matthew 3:13 Mark 1:9 Luke 3:21 John 1:29	Jesus was worthy of heaven - Yet came to be baptized After being recognized as the Lamb of God, Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River. He never sinned but was baptized to show submission to his heavenly Father.
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**Pleasing to God:** Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Mark 1:11.

A Commission to the Church	Matthew 28:19	Baptizing: Name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost * <b><u>Order:</u></b> <i>Gospel - Baptism - Discipleship</i>
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The Two Baptisms	Acts 1:5	<b><u>Baptism of the Spirit</u></b> - Essential for salvation . This makes us a part of the body of Christ/The Church <b><u>Baptism of Water</u></b> - Essential for obedience not salvation. This makes us part of a local church.
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A Pattern in the Church	Acts 2:41	Then they that gladly received his word were baptized
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Follows Salvation	Acts 8:12	When they believed...they were baptized.
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<i>Ethiopian Eunuch</i>	Acts 8:36	<b><u>Question:</u></b> What doth hinder me to be baptized?
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**Answer:** If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.

# TWO ORDINANCES - BAPTISM

## METHOD OF BAPTISM

Immersion	Matthew 3:16	When he was baptized, went up straightway out of the
	Mark 1:10	water. This was a baptism by immersion.
	Acts 8:38	They went down both into the water...he baptized him.

\* **Baptist People Reject**: infant baptism, sprinkling as well as baptismal regeneration.

\* **Baptist People Believe**: Believer's baptism, baptism by immersion and baptism that follows salvation rather than baptism that brings salvation.

## WHY IS A PERSON BAPTIZED?

- 1) To show submission to their heavenly Father.
- 2) To follow the example of Jesus Christ.
- 3) To obey the commands of the scriptures.
- 4) To show the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- 5) To become a part of a local church.

## WHAT ABOUT FOOT WASHING?

The Instruction	John 13:14	Ye also ought to wash one another's feet.
The Continuation	John 13:15	I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

- 1) This pattern was not continued in the New Testament Church epistles.
- 2) It is the principle of submission and service that the Lord was teaching.
- 3) This is something, like greeting one another with a holy kiss, that was cultural.

# INDIVIDUAL SOUL LIBERTY

“One Christian group has stood out for nearly two millennia as disciples of liberty, as biblical defenders of conscience— Baptists.” (Terry Hamilton, *The First Two Thousand Years of Baptist History*). The greatest freedom that each person has is a freedom of conscience. This is a biblical principle and it has been an inherent principle to Baptist people through the centuries.

Individual	Romans 14:12	Every one of us shall give account of himself to God.
Accountability	Romans 14:10 II Corinthians 8:10	We shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
	<i>* The judgment seat of Christ is where all believers will be judged for our actions in this body.</i>	
Appointment	Hebrews 9:27	It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.
Individual Salvation	Romans 10:10,13	With the heart man believeth unto righteousness.
Individual Worship	John 4:24 II Corinthians 3:17	Worship him in spirit and in truth. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.
Individual Prayer	Hebrews 4:16 Hebrews 10:19	Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace. Boldness...to enter into the holiest.
Individual Service	II Corinthians 1:12 I Peter 2:19	The testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity...have had our conversation in the world. Thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongly.

*\* Everything about our relationship with Jesus Christ is individual, not corporate. We are free!*



# INDIVIDUAL SOUL LIBERTY

## THE BIBLICAL BAPTIST PRINCIPLE OF LIBERTY

Individual Liberty	Galatians 6:1 John 8:32	Stand fast...in the liberty...Christ hath made us free. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
	Romans 8:21	Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.
	Galatians 5:13	For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.
Ultimate Liberty	Acts 5:29	We ought to obey God rather than man.

### KEY PRINCIPLES

**Baptism:** We reject infant baptism because baptism is only for believers and the infant did not have the ability to exercise free will in accepting Christ.

**Salvation:** We reject tribal salvation because each person must make the personal decision to trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour on their own.

**Ministry:** Each person must follow the Lord's leading into the ministry of God's choosing for their lives. We do not determine service or ministry, that is of the Lord.

**Practice:** We cannot force religion on a person because religion is based on faith and each person's faith is individual. We cannot determine the mind and heart of another.

# SAVED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We make the assumption that, by nature, a church has a saved membership but this is a challenge in a great many denominational settings. Baptists have universally held to the position that a person must be saved before they can be baptized and in turn become a part of a local church.

A Pattern to Follow	Acts 2:47	1) They that gladly received his word 2) Were baptized 3) Added unto them about three thousand souls
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*\* The divine order is: Salvation - Baptism - Church Membership*

God's Spiritual Purpose	I Corinthians 12:18 I Corinthians 2:14	Now hath God set the members The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God. 1) They are foolishness unto him 2) They are spiritually discerned
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*\* The only way for spiritual decisions to be made is if there is first an indwelling Spirit.*

## THE UNSAVED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP HERESY

**Constantine:** In the fourth century, when Emperor Constantine declared that Christianity was now a legal religion and ordered the entire Roman army to be baptized into the Christian faith, he made one of the worst decisions in the history of Bible Christianity. Now churches were filled, but they were filled with the unsaved. Pagan beliefs were no longer rebuked but incorporated into Christian worship. Christendom was now corrupt and biblical Christianity continued to be an outcast sect.

# TWO OFFICES - PASTOR & DEACON

Churches throughout the world are rife with and vexed by unscriptural government that is governed by bureaucracy staffed by unbiblical church offices. There are only two offices in a biblical church: Pastor and Deacon. The names of elder and bishop are synonymous with the title of pastor. Baptist people have never embraced: Priest, father, cardinal etc. The one exception that American Baptist have embraced is that of Trustee due to the requirements of the state. We can have titles within a church but there are only two that are in the scriptures.

Paul's Conversation      Philippians 1:1      Paul and Timotheus ... to all the saints ... are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Under-shepherd      I Peter 5:1-3      1) Feed the flock of God  
 2) Take the oversight  
 3) Ensamples to the flock

**Requirements**  
**I Timothy 3:1-11**

## THE TITLES

Bishop	I Timothy 3:1	A superintendent and an officer
Elder	Acts 14:23, 15:2	A traditional leadership title, a Counselor
Presbytery	I Timothy 4:14	Official Body/Authority - Ordination & Review
Authority	Hebrews 13:17	Obeys them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves:

***Why They Are Given Authority?***      1) They watch for your souls  
 2) They that must give an account,

**Why Our Response Matters:**      They may do it with joy, and not with grief

# TWO OFFICES - PASTOR & DEACON

The office of deacon is a scriptural office that, if done biblically, is a great gift to a church. Not only is the office of deacon a great gift to a church it is also incredibly misunderstood. Aside from the office of pastor there is no other church office other than deacon.

Their Origin

Acts 6:1-7

These were not deacons but they laid the foundation for the qualifications and verification of lay leadership in a church.

Their Responsibilities I Timothy 3:9

**They must first be proved**

**They are to be examples**

**They are to be servants**

**They must be spiritual**

1) Hold the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

2) Help the pastor minister to the people of the church.

3) Hold the office of deacon ... found blameless.

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

*\* Deacons provide a continuity of faith for a church and expand the ministry of a church by multiplying the number of ministers in a church.*

## TYPICAL CHURCH OFFICES NOT IN THE BIBLE

1) Cardinal, 2) Arch-Bishop, 3) Priest, 4) Father, 5) Trustee, 6) Deaconess, 7) Apostle

***Baptist churches believe that each church has the authority to select their own pastor and deacons according to the Word of God.***



# PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE

Although not a purely Baptist distinctive, the position of a pre-tribulation rapture is a fundamental position for Bible believing people. This position sets Bible people apart from many others who have a minimal or low view of scripture.

**The Promise of God** I Thessalonians 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
*\* The wrath that is spoken of in this passage is the wrath of God that is poured out during the seven years of tribulation. The conclusion of this wrath will usher in the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ.*

**The Promise of His Coming** John 14:1-6 If I go ... I will come again.

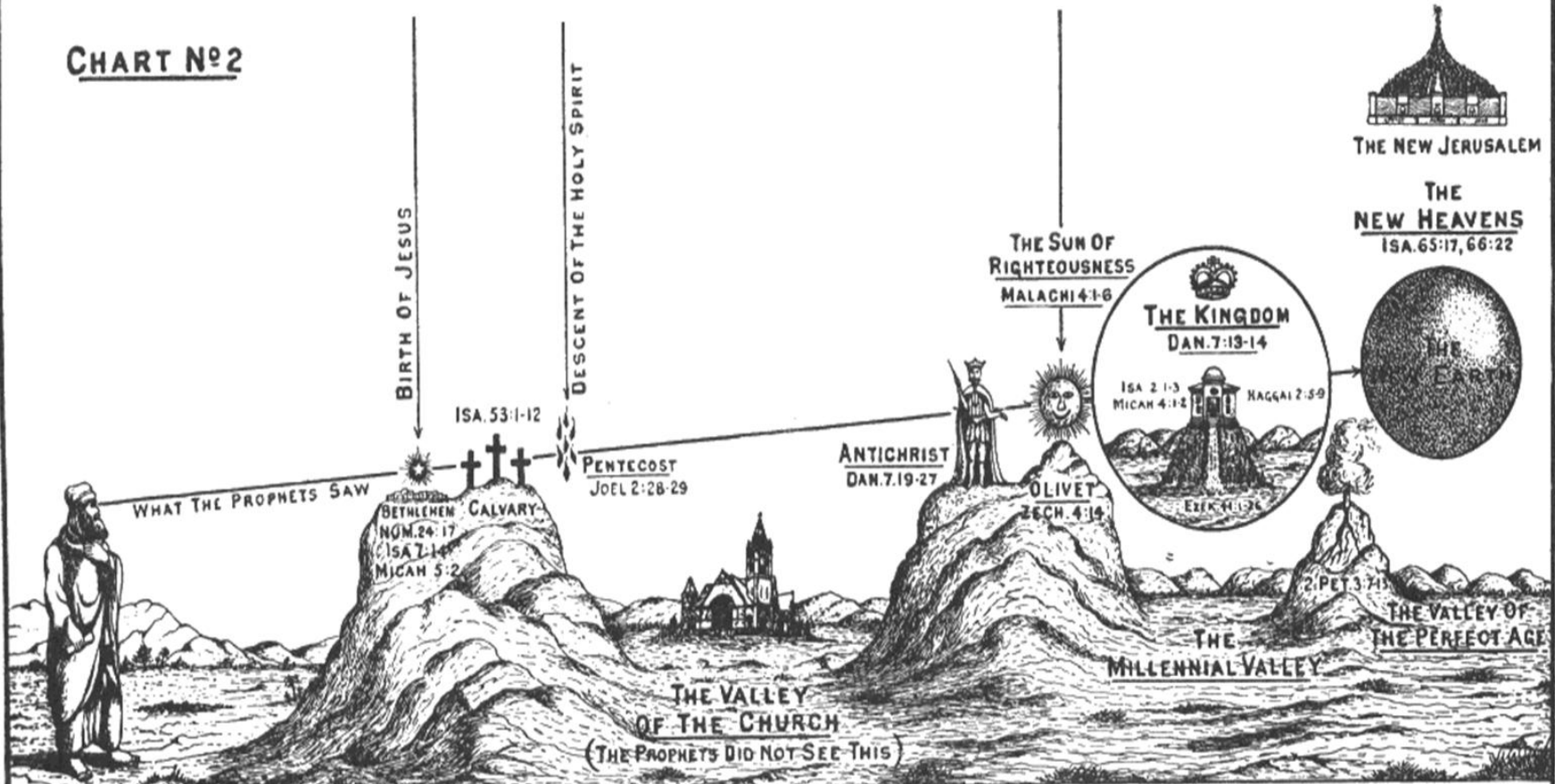
**Coming in the Rapture** I Thessalonians 4:17 In the rapture, the Lord comes in the clouds and we go to him in the air.

**Followed By:** II Thessalonians 1:7-11 After the church is removed in the rapture, the Lord is now free to come in judgment on the earth. A lack of faith is judged.

**An Order of Events** I Corinthians 15:22-26 The end only comes and the kingdom is only offered up, after the church is taken up as Christ was taken up (Acts 1:11).

Zechariah 14:1-4 The coming of Christ on the Mt. of Olives.

**CHART No 2**



**THE OLD TESTAMENT VALLEY**  
THE VIEW-POINT OF THE PROPHETS

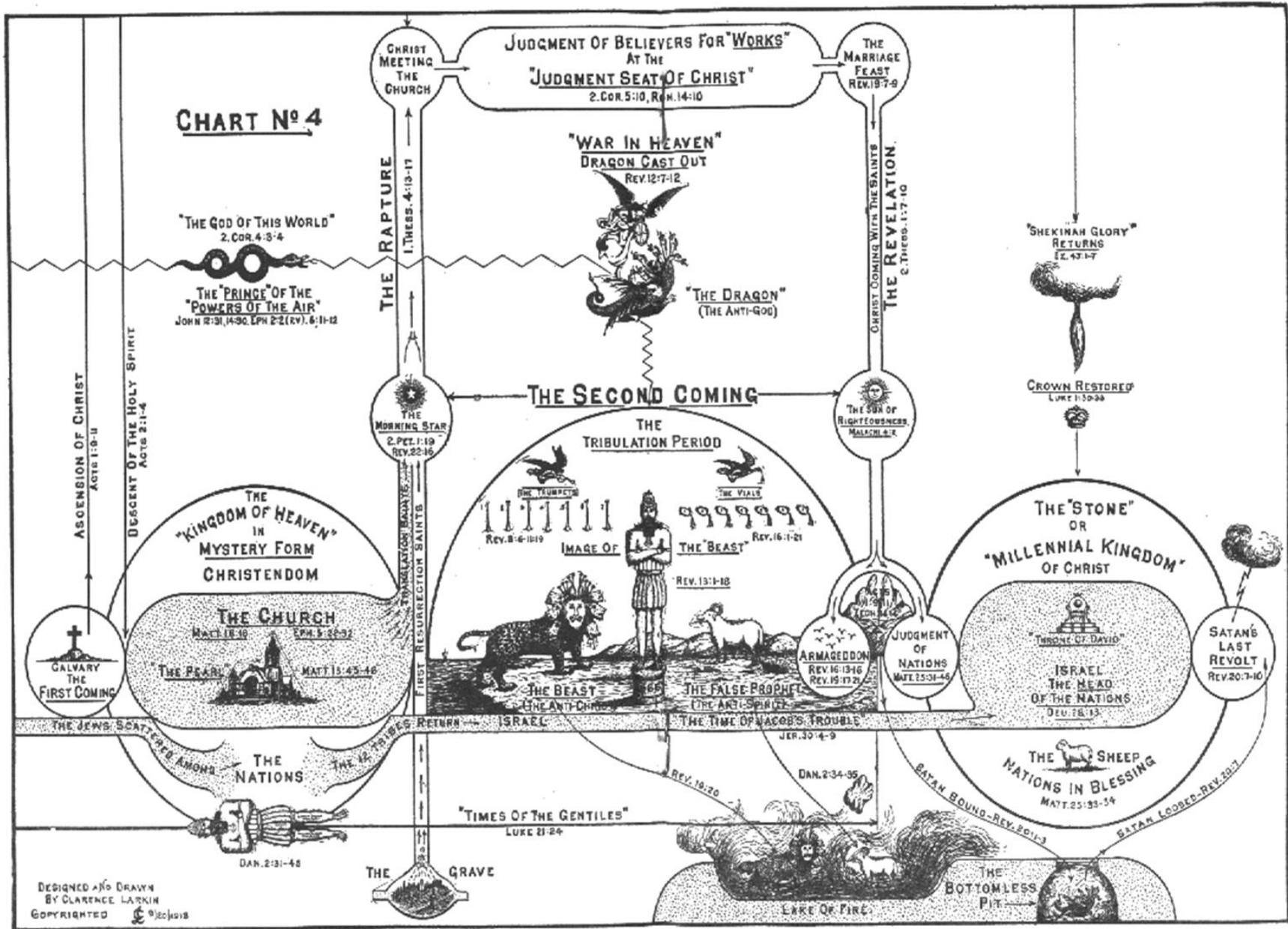
**OUR VIEW-POINT**  
WE SEE THE "MOUNTAIN PEAKS" AND "VALLEYS" FROM THE SIDE  
AND SO CAN SEPARATE THE FIRST AND SECOND COMING PROPHECIES

**THE "MOUNTAIN PEAKS" OF PROPHECY**

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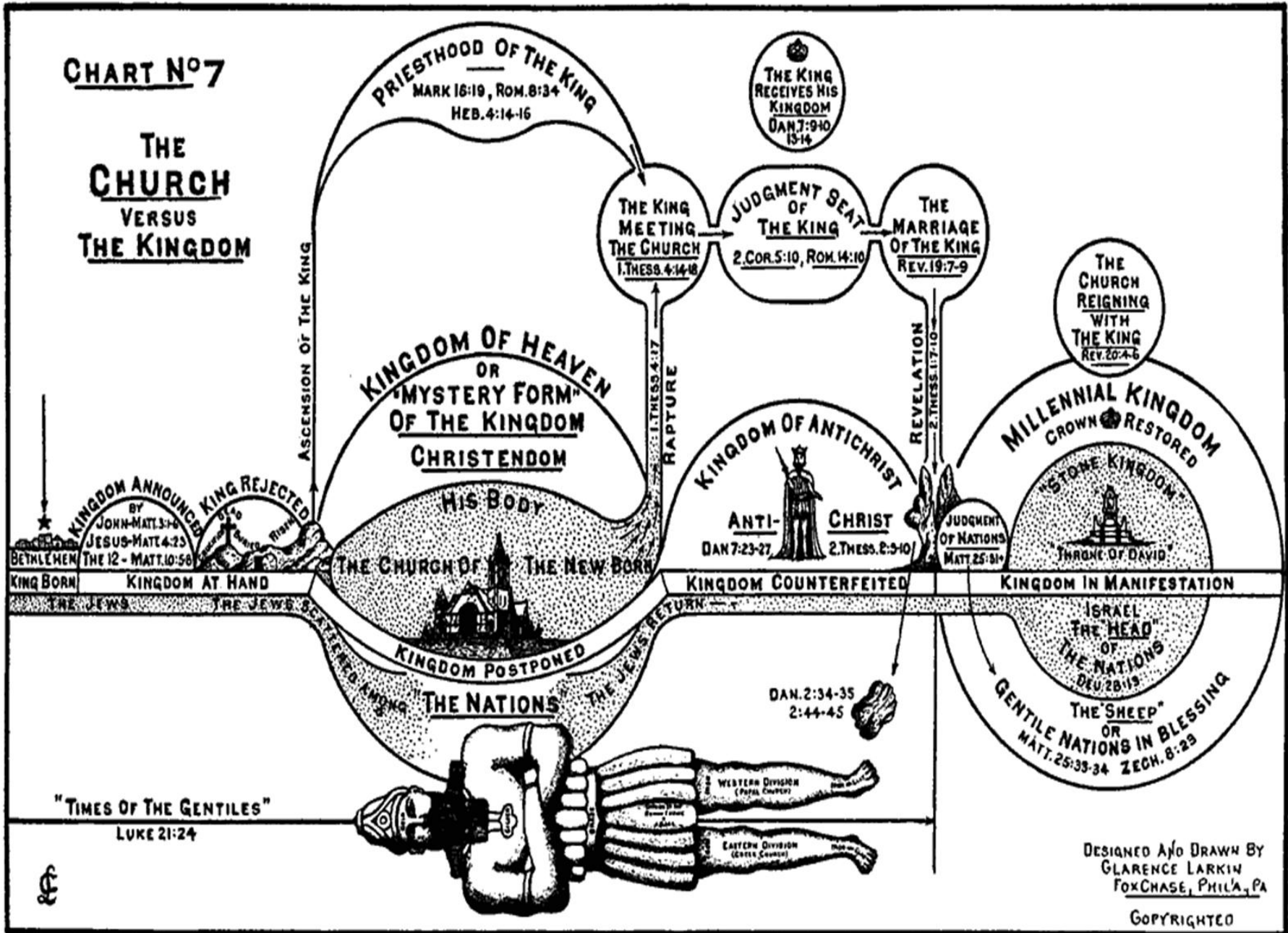
**CHART No 4**



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**CHART N°7**

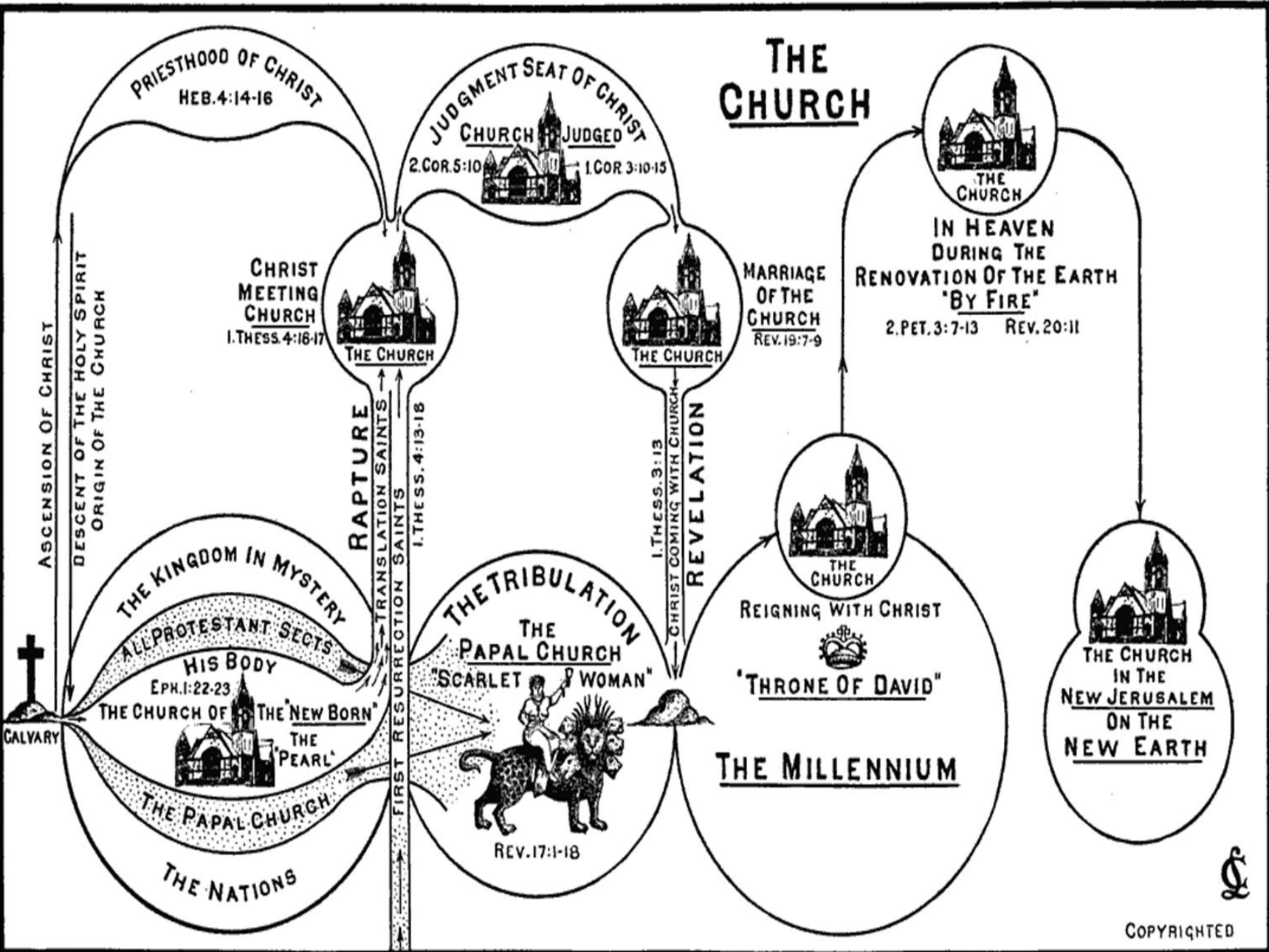
**THE CHURCH  
VERSUS  
THE KINGDOM**



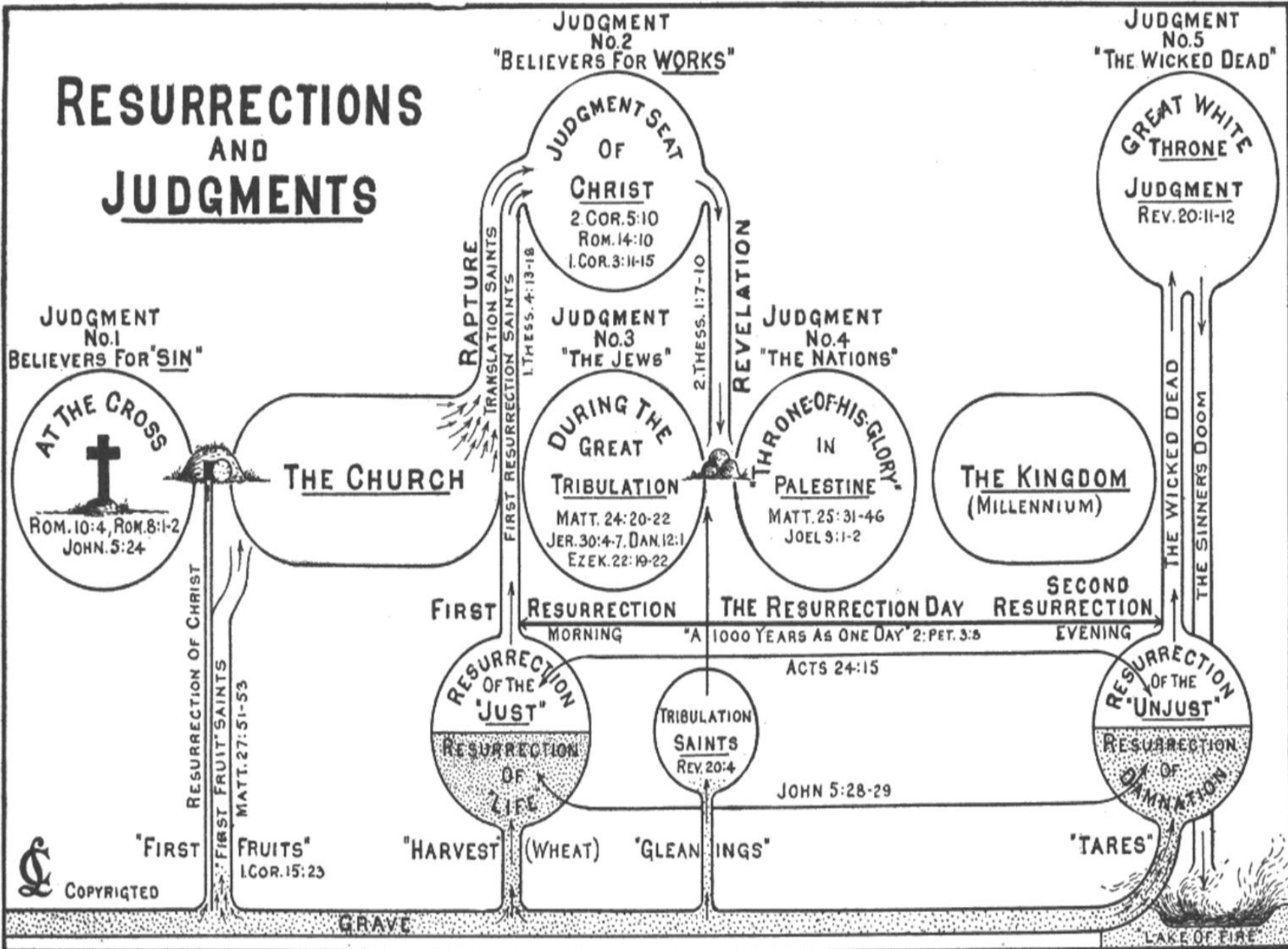
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# RESURRECTIONS AND JUDGMENTS



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# WEAPONS OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH

One of the primary reasons that Christians have sought relationships with the state through the centuries is safety. It makes perfect, fleshly sense for God's people to embrace the powers that be in the world and gain their money, armies, influence and protection. Baptist people have never embraced the carnal weapons of the world and instead have depended on the power of God.

<b>The Difference in Kingdoms</b>	II Corinthians 10:3	1) We walk after the flesh 2) We do not war after the flesh
<b>The Difference in Weapons</b>	II Corinthians 10:4	For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God. <i>* We do not battle with the sword but that does not mean we are without defense.</i>
<b>The Content of Our Weapons</b>	Ephesians 6:11-18	1) Helmet of Salvation      2) Shield of Faith      3) Sword of the Spirit 4) Loins Girt with Truth      5) Breastplate of Righteousness      6) Feet Shod ...gospel of peace.
<b>The Power of Our Weapons</b>	II Corinthians 10:3-5	1) Pulling down of strongholds 2) Casting down imaginations 3) Every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God. 4) Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.
<b>The Lesson for the Weapons</b>	John 18:36	My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight.

The Word of God  
Hebrews 4:12

# THE WORK OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The church exists for one purpose, the propagation of the gospel. Even though it makes us feel better about ourselves and others to embrace a social gospel, a social structure and the compromise of the purpose of the church, it is the duty of the church to simplify its ministry and center around the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

The Method	Matthew 28:19-20	1) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, 2) Baptizing them 3) Teaching them to observe
The Magnitude	Mark 16:15	Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel.
The Message	Luke 24:47	Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations.
The Manner	John 20:21	As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.
The Means	Acts 1:8	Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses.
Our Surrender	Philippians 1:12	The things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;
Our Submission	I Corinthians 9:22-23	I am made all things to all men, that I might <b><u>by all means save some.</u></b>

\* And this I do **for the gospel's sake**, that I might be partaker thereof with you. \*

# FINANCES OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH

What is the biblical way for a church to fund itself? If Baptists claim biblical authority, than the means by which a Baptist church is financed should mirror the pattern in scripture.

**Tithes and Offerings**      Deuteronomy 16:17      Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.

*\* This was under the law but tithes existed before the law in Genesis 14:20. God's people giving to Methuselah, the pre-incarnate Christ.*

**Robbing God**      Malachi 3:8-10      Will a man rob God? Ye have robbed me.

How? In tithes and offerings. - Not giving is robbing God.

Solution: Malachi 3:10 - Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse ... prove me.

God's Response: God will open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing.

**A Pattern of Giving**      I Corinthians 16:2      Upon the first day of the week let every one of you ... as God hath prospered him.

**A Manner of Giving**      II Corinthians 9:6-7      The Law of Sowing and Reaping

1) Sow Bountifully - Reap Bountifully    2) Sow Sparingly - Reap Sparingly

Manner: 1) Every man according as he purposeth in his heart

2) Not grudgingly, or of necessity:

**The Promise of God**      II Corinthians 9:8      God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

# THE TROUBLEMAKERS

The heretics and troublemakers in the New Testament were the reason that much of the New Testament was written. The Bible writers were forced to deal with matters under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We have a plan for order, discipline and function because these men chose to give their lives to inhibit the gospel work of the local church.

Hymenaeus and Philetus      II Timothy 2:16-17      Their words were like a canker and they were overthrowing the faith of some.

**Solution:** II Timothy 2:19-26 - *Be a faithful minister; praying they can recover themselves.*

Alexander the Coppersmith      II Timothy 4:14      He did Paul much harm and greatly withstood Paul's words.

**Solution:** II Timothy 1:20 - *Paul delivered him to Satan so he would learn not to blaspheme.*

Diotrophes      III John 1:9-11      He desired the preeminence and would not receive John and cast out others.

**Solution:** III John 1:11 - *Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good.*

Apollos      Ac 18:24      A Jew of Alexandria who was eloquent and mighty in the scriptures, knowing only the baptism of John.

**Solution:** I Corinthians 16:12,16 - *Paul subtly led the Corinthians to avoid Apollos.*

The Pharisees and Scribes      \* *A constant thorn in the side of Jesus and all those who followed him and continued his ministry.*

False Prophets      Matthew 24:24      False Christs and false prophets - Deceiving the elect



## Baptist Distinctives - 1

Monday - Read John 1:6-7. What was the calling and purpose of John?

What name or title was ascribed to John in Luke 7:20?

Tuesday - According to Acts 11:26, what was an early name that was given to the followers of Christ?

How has this name changed in its meaning over the centuries?

Wednesday - What does I Corinthians 3:10-14, teach us about the foundation of the believer and the church?

What will eventually reveal the foundation that each life has been built upon?

Thursday - What does II Timothy 3:16, teach us about the authority of the scriptures?

What are the four works of the Word of God?

Friday - How does II Peter 1:21, confirm for us the source and authority of the Word of God?

Saturday - List some of the simple truths that Psalm 12, teaches us about the Word of God?

Sunday - How do John 17:17 and Psalm 119:89, support the authority of the Bible?

## Baptist Distinctives - 2

Monday - According to Romans 10:17, why is the Word of God essential to our faith?  
How does this show that the Bible is the only authority to the church?

Tuesday - How does Ephesians 6:17, is the Bible an offensive or defensive part of the Christians armor?

Wednesday - Read Revelation 22:18-19. What is the danger of taking away from or adding to the Word of God?

Thursday - Read Acts 2:41-47. What happened before the people were baptized?

What brought them to the point that they would respond in salvation?

Friday - What office is outlined in Titus 1:5, II Timothy 3:1-7 and Philippians 2:19-20, that is essential to the function of a church?

Saturday - According to Acts 2:47 and I Corinthians 12:18, who sets the members of the local church?

Sunday - How does I Thessalonians 4:13-18 show us the first time that “the” church exists in function?

## Baptist Distinctives - 4 - Two Ordinances

Monday - According to Matthew 26:18, what was the intention of Jesus as he and his disciples went to the upper room?

Tuesday - How did Jesus describe the bread and the cup in Matthew 26:26-28?  
At any point does Jesus state that these elements are literally his blood or are they simply a picture of his blood and flesh?

Wednesday - How does I Corinthians 5:7 show that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Passover?

Compare I Corinthians 5:7 and Hebrews 10:12. How does Jesus become the last Passover Lamb?

Thursday - What direction did the Apostle Paul give to the church at Corinth in I Corinthians 11:23?

How does this passage refer back to Matthew 26:26-28?

Friday - According to I Corinthians 11:24-28, what are the three reasons that we keep the Lord's Supper?

How does this insure fellowship among believers?

Saturday - What were the repercussions to a person if they took the Lord's Supper while having sin in their lives?

Sunday - Describe the origins of the Passover in Exodus 12.

## Baptist Distinctives - 5 - Individual Soul Liberty

Monday - What is the central truth that is taught in Romans 14:12?

According to Romans 14:10, why is it so important that we consider our personal accountability to God?

Tuesday - Read Romans 14:10 and I Corinthians 8:10. What is the purpose of the Judgment Seat of Christ?

Who will be at the Judgment Seat of Christ?

Wednesday - According to Romans 10:10-13, what is the role of each individual's heart in the matter of salvation?

Thursday - Read John 4:24. How are we to worship God?

How does this truth teach us of our accountability to God and our personal worship?

Friday - Compare Hebrews 4:16 and Hebrews 10:19. What do these passages teach us about our personal prayer life?

Saturday - How did Paul state that he had his conversation in the world in II Corinthians 1:12?

Sunday - What command are we given in Galatians 6:1?

How does this impact our individual soul liberty?

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## Baptist Distinctive's - 7 - Two Offices

Monday - What role was fulfilled by the presbytery in I Timothy 4:14?

Tuesday - What reasons are given in Hebrew 13:17 that teach us why we should obey the God given authorities that God has placed in our lives?

Wednesday - What is the responsibility of God's people to those in authority according to Hebrews 13:17?

Thursday - List the requirements for a deacon in I Timothy 3:8-13?

Friday - According to I Timothy 3:8-13 what are the biblical responsibilities of a deacon?

Saturday - After reading I Timothy 3:8-13 and comparing it to Acts 6:1-5, are there any overlapping qualifications between the deacons and those mentioned in Acts 6?

Sunday - What role did an elder provide in Acts 14:23 and Acts 15:2?

How is this applied today?



## Baptist Distinctive's - 8 - Pre-Tribulation/Pre-Millennial Rapture

Monday - What promise did Jesus make to his disciples in John 14:1-6?

What had to happen before this promise could be fulfilled?

Tuesday - How does the Apostle Paul describe the coming of the Lord in I Thessalonians 4:13-18?

Wednesday - Where does the coming of the Lord take place in I Thessalonians 4:13-18?

What is the order of events that culminates with us being with the Lord forever?

Thursday - According to I Corinthians 15:51-58, what happens at the last trump?

How does this impact us?

Friday - What has God not appointed us to according to I Thessalonians 5:9?

What can we obtain instead of wrath?

Saturday - Read II Thessalonians 1:7-12. How does this passage describe the coming of the Lord differently than in I Thessalonians 4:13-18?

Why do these people experience wrath?

Sunday - According to I Corinthians 15:22-26, at what point does the end come?

What events happen in Zechariah 14:1-4?

## Baptist Distinctive's - 9 - The Work of the Baptist Church

Monday - How does Matthew 28:19-20 demonstrate for us the method by which the church is to evangelize the world?

Tuesday - According to Mark 16:15, what is the magnitude or our calling in the Great Commission?

Wednesday - What is the content of our message as read in Luke 24:47-48?

What is the order that these things must happen?

Thursday - Read John 20:21. In what manner are we to carry out our ministry?

Friday - As the Lord is preparing to ascend to the right hand of the Father in Acts 1:8, what is the means by which we will be able to carry out our work of being a witness?

Saturday - How does Philippians 1:12 teach us about our surrender to the gospel ministry?

Sunday - What was Paul willing to do and become for the purpose of the gospel in I Corinthians 9:22-23?

How should we apply this passage to our own witness?

## Baptist Distinctive's - 10 - Weapons and Finances of the Baptist Church

Monday - What does II Corinthians 10:3-4 teach us about the weapons of the believer?

Our weapons are not carnal, but they are \_\_\_\_\_.

Tuesday - Read Ephesians 6:11-18. What are the individual pieces of armor that the believer is commanded to put on?

Wednesday - According to II Corinthians 10:3-5, what are the weapons of the believer able to do?

Thursday - According to Ephesians 6:11-18 and Hebrews 4:12, what is the only weapon of the believer?

Friday - What instruction was given to the Jews about giving in Deuteronomy 16:17?

Saturday - What question did the believers ask God in Malachi 3:8-10?

How did the people rob God?

Sunday - What pattern was established for giving in I Corinthians 16:2?

What does II Corinthians 9:6-7 teach us about the law of sowing and reaping?





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## BAPTIST CHURCH

To search the scriptures and strengthen the things which remain because all scripture is given by inspiration of God and we must expound the way of God more perfectly.

*Pastor Lyon Brown*



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