

The Story of Light Unshackled

The Bible makes a bold claim— that between its covers are the words of God. The Bible explains God’s love for us, and shines light on our path toward Salvation. Jesus states “the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” John 6:63.

The Bible tells of a great war in heaven. Of one who became rebellious and turned against God. This cosmic conflict spilled onto earth when Adam and Eve turned away from the Light by disobeying God’s law. They were created perfect, and they had the power to choose. Because of their choice, the human race was plunged into misery and woe. Since then mankind has continued to sin, and is condemned before God’s Holy Law.

Jesus came to this earth and paid the penalty for sin, making it possible for all to choose God. Conversion works a complete re-orientation of our lives. Jesus empowers us to become like Him. The result of Salvation is to prepare us to live in the presence of God through eternity.

Jesus gave his followers the great commission— to spread the good news of Salvation across the globe. Satan threw all hell against the spread of the Gospel. He designed a counterfeit system of Christian worship, where man’s ideas would replace Biblical truths. At first there was pagan persecution against the early Christian Church. But over time, this changed to be assimilation. The doctrines of Christianity and Paganism were slowly melded together, and the truths of the Bible were obscured. Since the Bible pointed to the way of truth, it became the special focus of Satan’s attack. In 1199 AD, Pope Innocent III condemned the translations of the Bible. By 1229 AD, State Church issued a decree forbidding anyone from possessing one.

To encourage His followers, God gave prophetic messages outlining the activities and duration of this persecuting power. Its beginning was in 538 AD, by Justinian’s Code authorizing the Pope to legally rule over church and state. It ended when the Pope was taken captive in 1798, removing his power over the state, and inflicting the deadly wound of Rev. 13:3. The 1,260 day/ years of Daniel 7:21-27 was given over 1000 years before this persecution began.

In preparation for the time of the end, the Holy Spirit moved on those with receptive hearts to prepare a Reformation within the church. Wycliffe, the morning star of the Reformation, uncovered many truths from Scripture. Successive reformers worked to advance truth, no matter the cost. Millions gave their lives for the truth.

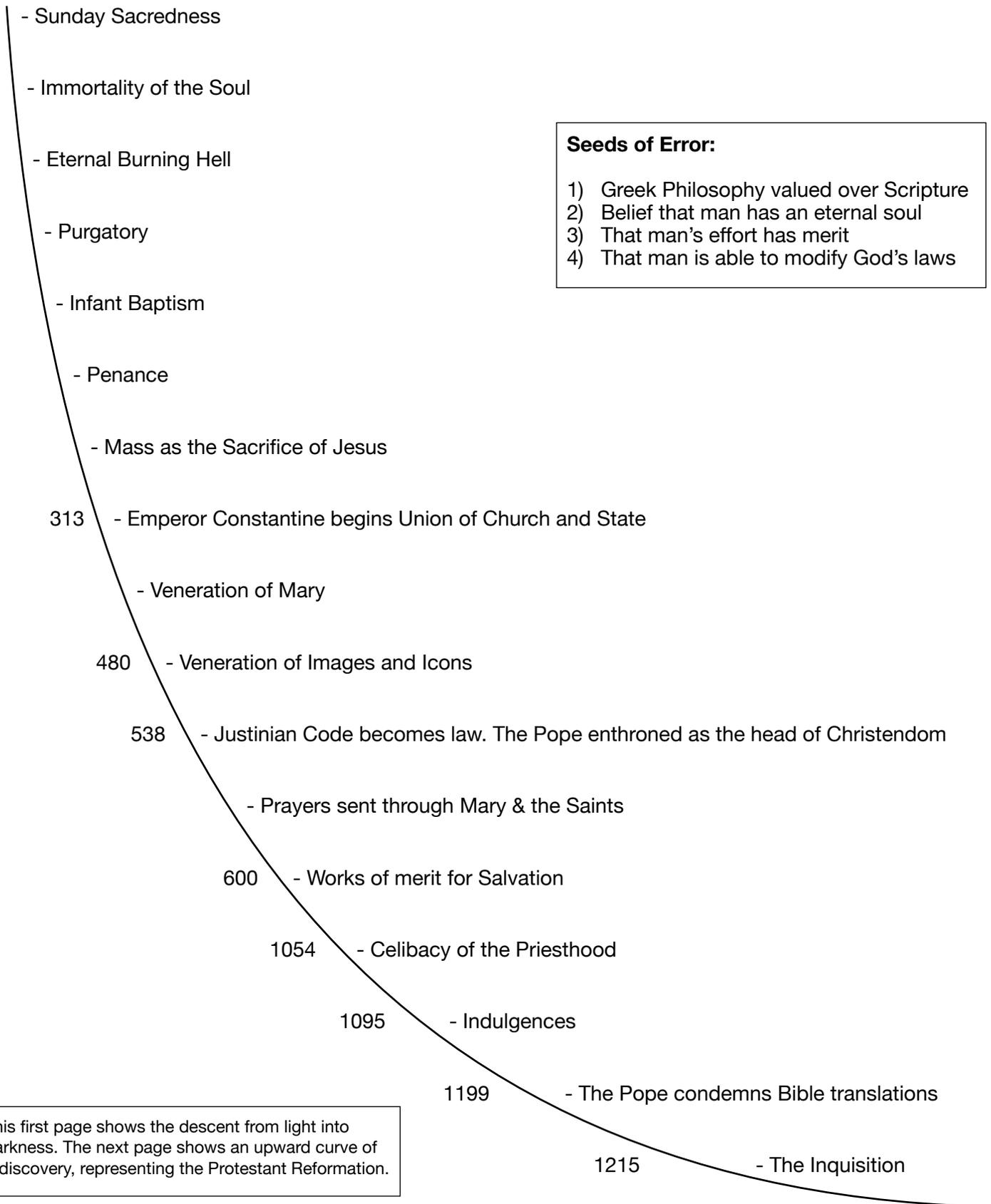
But God through the Holy Spirit revived and protected His people. Revivals spread the Gospel to "every kindred nation, tongue and people." The message was given to "Fear God and give Him glory." An "hour of judgement and a call to worship God as our Creator" swept across the globe in the second great awakening. The message of William Miller leading up to 1844, was that "Jesus is coming soon."

There were also false revivals that exhibited a power, without the prerequisites of a Godly outpouring: confession, turning away from sin and unity with Scripture.

From the Dark Ages to the present, there has been a continual advancement in the uncovering and adherence to the truths of Scripture. The Holy Spirit through history has encouraged new groups of faith to pick up the standard of belief and to progress onward. In the time of the end, a small group will follow Jesus and the Bible, just as it reads, no matter the cost. Now is the time for each of us to stand for truth. "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16.

Light Shackled

150 - 1300 AD



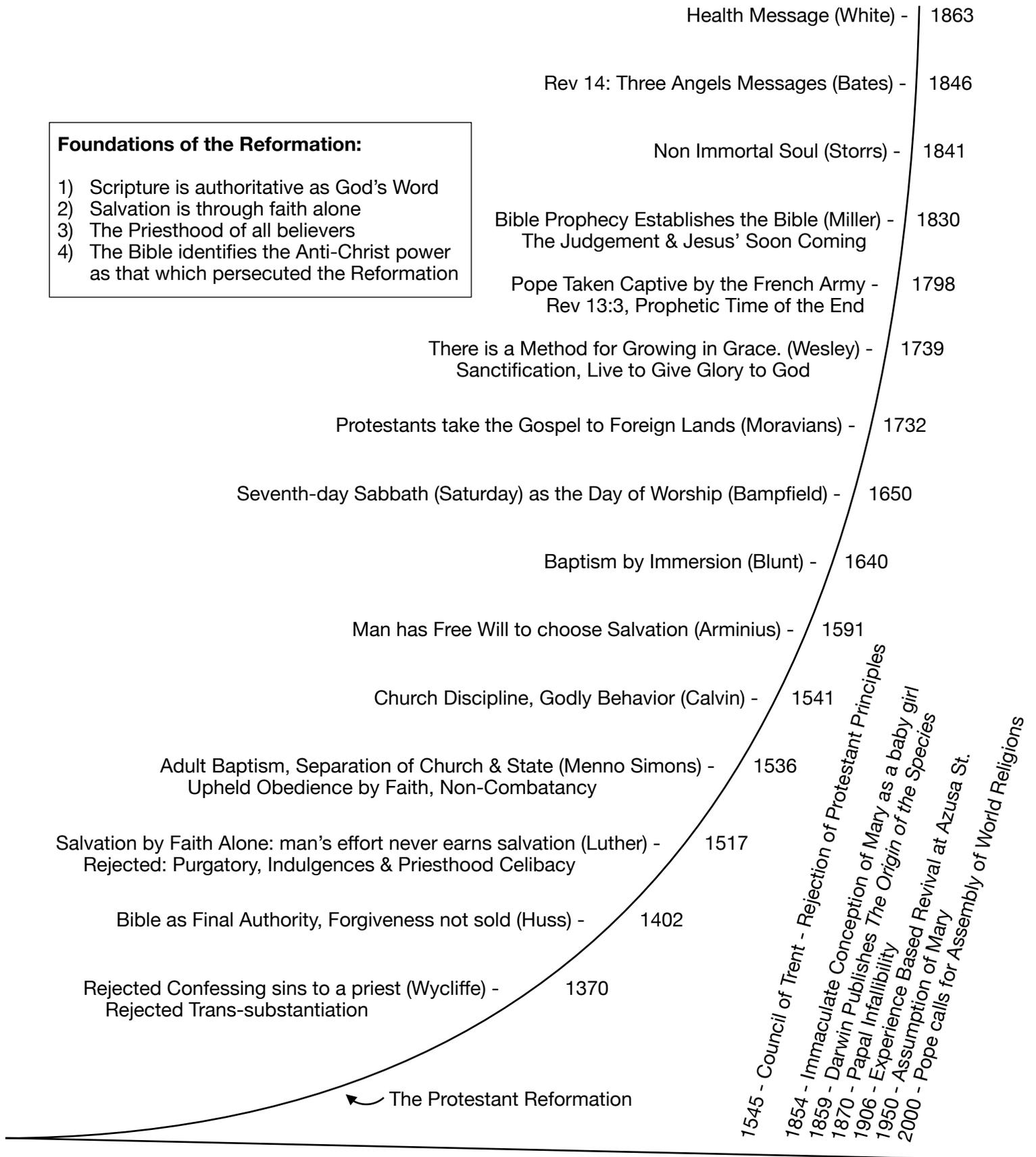
Special thanks to Dr. Jerry Moon for his input on this chart.

Light UnShackled

1300 - 2000 AD

Foundations of the Reformation:

- 1) Scripture is authoritative as God's Word
- 2) Salvation is through faith alone
- 3) The Priesthood of all believers
- 4) The Bible identifies the Anti-Christ power as that which persecuted the Reformation



The Cascade of Anti-Biblical Thought

Immortality of the soul - This is the first lie told by Satan in the garden of Eden: "You shall not surely die." Sadly, this error has been present in religious thinking ever since. The Greeks made it intellectually attractive, and these concepts have worked their way into Christianity and continue in our modern culture.

Eternal burning hell fire - Hell would need to be eternal if the soul is also eternal. But neither idea is supported in scripture. Hell is a fire that consumes. The results of hell are eternal, but the suffering is not. The idea that the suffering of Hell is a source of eternal pleasure for God is reprehensible. Hell, as an eternal suffering punishment, has led more people to reject God as a tyrant than any other erroneous misrepresentation of His character. Predestination is an additional blow against the character of God, claiming that God decides who will go to Hell before they are even born.

Saints are in heaven to intercede for man - Once the church fathers accepted the error of an immortal soul, they migrated to ideas of saints being intercessors for man, especially since God was pictured as a tyrant. This error diminished the sacrifice and merit of Christ, our only true intercessor. It also makes man's efforts key to his own salvation.

Man's effort can merit salvation - Every false religion is based upon the idea that man's effort can merit his salvation. This error worked its way into the Christian church as well, especially when Paganism and Christianity were merged together under Constantine the Great. The Bible is clear that man must choose Christ and invite Him into the life to obtain salvation. It is God's Spirit that empowers us to live a holy life. We are not saved by our works.

Penance for sin - The idea that man needs to suffer, to undergo painful punishment to appease an angry god is based on the error that we can merit salvation by our works. It is the sacrifice of Jesus that makes us right with God, not our works.

Indulgences for past or future sins - The church of the dark ages combined several of these concepts and turned it into a money generating powerhouse. If your works add to your merit, and man can forgive sins, then you have the ultimate opportunity for financial manipulation. It was Tetzil who said, "Who would not for a coin free their loved deceased family member from purgatory?" and "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, a soul from purgatory springs." Luther posted his 95 thesis in response to this error.

Man has power over God and His laws - This error gives man the ultimate in power, and manipulation force. The Bible clearly denounces as blasphemy the idea that man has the power to forgive sins. We are not to worship or confess sins to our fellow men.

Transubstantiation - The idea that a priest can command the presence and sacrifice of Jesus afresh during the communion service is not found in the Bible. It changes the simple remembrance of his sacrifice into a mysterious incantation.

Sunday sacredness - The blending of Pagan and Christian concepts led to a weekend of worship. Sabbath was seen as somber and restrictive. Sunday was a celebration and festive. With man having power over God, he could also change God's laws. Sunday sacredness, supported nowhere in the Bible, has almost completely replaced Saturday (Sabbath) worship. The 4th Commandment calls for us to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. (Exodus 20:8-11)

Bible Truths of the Protestant Reformation

The Bible is God's Word	2Ti 3:16-17 2Pe 1:19-21 Mat 5:18, 24:35 Psa 119:160,105 Rom 15:4 2Ti 2:15 Jhn 5:39, 6:63, 17:17 Jer 15:16
Jesus and the Trinity	Jhn 1:1-3 Gen 1:26 Jhn 8:58 Mat 28:9,19, 3:16-17 Jhn 14:26
Creation	Gen 1-2 Psa 33:6 Jer 10:12-13 Heb 11:3 Isa 45:18 Rom 1:20 Rev 14:7 Isa 40:28 Jer 32:17 Act 17:24
Rejecting Idols & Icons	Exo 20:4-6 Lev 19:4, 26:1 Eze 18:12, 23:39 2Ki 23:24
Man's Need of a Savior	Rom 3:10,23 Jer 17:9 Psa 14:3 Jas 1:12-15 Mat 11:28-30
Salvation	Jhn 3:16-17 Mat 11:28 Act 16:30-31 1Jo 1:9 Act 3:19, 4:12 Isa 53:4-6 Eph 2:8-10 2Co 5:21 Rom 8:1 1Jo 5:11-13
Free Will	Gen 3:6-10 1Ki 18:21 Jos 24:15 2Ch 7:14 2Pe 2:20-21
Rejecting Human Merit	Gen 4:3-5 Rom 3:10-12,23 Isa 64:6 Gal 2:16 Eph 2:8-9
Righteousness by Faith	1Co 15:57 Eze 36:26 Heb 11:1-2 Jhn 15:5 Gal 2:20
Baptism by Submersion	Rom 6:4 Act 8:36-39 Eph 4:5 Mar 1:5 Jhn 3:23 Mat 28:19
Rejecting Infant Baptism	Act 8:30-36 Mat 3:1-6 Mar 1:4, 16:16, 1:8 Act 2:38 Eph 4:5
The Lord's Supper	1Co 11:23-26 Mat 26:26-29 Jhn 13:4-17 Rev 3:20-21
The Law of God	Rom 7:22 Psa 19:7,11 Jas 1:25 Exo 20:1-17 Hos 4:6
Seventh-day Sabbath	Gen 2:2-3 Exo 20:8-11 Luk 4:16, 23:52-56, 24:1 Act 17:2 Mar 2:27-28 Eze 20:12,20 Mat 12:8 Isa 66:22-23
Rejecting Priest Celibacy	Mar 10:6-9 1Ti 3:2 Tit 1:6-9 Heb 13:4 Eph 5:33 1Co 7:1-7
State of the Dead	Gen 2:7 Job 27:3 Jas 2:26 Ecc 9:5-6 Act 2:29,34 Jhn 11:11-14, 5:28-29 1Th 4:13-18 1Co 15:52 Rev 20:5
Rejecting Saint Worship	Psa 146:3-4 2Ti 4:7-8 Exo 34:14 Rev 19:10 Act 14:9-15
The Heavenly Sanctuary	Exo 25:8-9 Heb 8:1-2, 9:11-12 Psa 77:13 Dan 8:14
Identity of the Dragon	Rev 12:7-9 Isa 14:12-15 Luk 10:18 Rev 13:2-4 1Pe 5:8
Jesus' Second Coming	Jhn 14:2-3 Act 1:9-11 Rev 1:7 1Th 4:16-17 Mat 24:30-31 Rev 6:14-17, 22:12 Mat 16:27 Tit 2:13 1Jo 2:28 Php 1:6
Rejecting a Secret Rapture	Mat 24:27,30-31 2Pe 3:10 1Th 4:16-17 1Co 15:52 Rev 1:7
Hell that Consumes	Eze 33:11 Rev 20:14-15 1Co 3:12-13 Jde 1:7 2Pe 2:6 Mal 4:1-3 Obd 1:15-16 Psa 37:10,20 Isa 65:17 Eze 28:17-18
The Earth Made New	2Pe 3:13 Rev 21:1-4, 22:1-5 Isa 11:6-9, 51:11 Psa 37:29

A complete Bible study is available for each of these topics, along with more free resources. Visit: www.LightUnshackled.com

Religious Movements Preserving Bible Truth

The Waldensians	The Waldensians held to their apostolic faith through the dark ages, preserving the Bible and carefully spreading it where possible. They accepted the Bible as the sole and total authority for all doctrine.
The Lollards	John Wycliffe (1370) commissioned lay preachers called Lollards, to carry hand copied scriptures throughout Europe. He rejected the errors of transubstantiation and confessing sins to a priest.
The Hussites	Jon Huss (1402) upheld the Bible as God's Word. He worked to spread the Bible so the people could read it and understand it for themselves. He rejected the idea that forgiveness could be purchased.
The Lutherans	Martin Luther (1517) was convinced that the church needed reform. He wanted to reform it from within, not start a new denomination. Following Scripture, he rejected penance and indulgences. He rejected celibacy of the priesthood. He found purgatory to be the creation of man's ideas.
The Huguenots	The followers of John Calvin (1536) which were terribly persecuted (1572) and finally expelled from France. They upheld church structure and Godly living.
The Anabaptists	Minno Simons (1500) rejected Infant Baptism. They held that we must obey through faith the commands of Scripture. They promoted the separation of church & state, a combination which has always proved destructive. They did not believe in killing fellow human beings in war.
The Baptists	John Smyth (1609) championed Baptism by Immersion for believing adults who could accept truth. He rejected the errors of inherited guilt and infant baptism. He taught that man could choose God's way and be saved, thereby refuting predestination.
The Pilgrims	Persecuted for their faith, the Pilgrims (1620) were influenced by Puritans. They sought in America a new beginning: "A country without a king, and a church without a Pope."
The Moravians	The Moravians (1727) took the gospel commission very seriously: to go to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. They sent the first foreign missionaries and supported them with around the clock prayer.
The Methodists	John Wesley (1730) focused on a message of Free Will. The Gospel was preached to the poor and they responded in mass to give God glory through lives changed to be like Jesus.
The Millerites	William Miller (1830) started his study of the Bible as a skeptic. He was fascinated by the hundreds of prophecies which provide ample evidence of a supernatural, caring God. He proclaimed Jesus is coming soon.
The Adventists	Adventists (1863) experienced a great disappointment when Jesus did not return as expected in 1844. They found Jesus was starting a special work in the Most Holy place to prepare His followers for Heaven. They worship on Saturday as taught by the Bible and look forward to the soon Second Advent of Jesus Christ in the clouds.