

Article 2: Statement of Faith

Section 2.01 - Introduction

This Statement of Faith does not, and cannot, exhaust the extent of true Biblical faith. The revelation of God, as He has revealed Himself and His design in the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek Scriptures from which the Bible has been translated, is the final source and authority for all valid belief. This Statement of Faith is set forth as a reasonably accurate, composite representation of the Creator's revelation as He has communicated Himself to humankind, and therefore these statements serve as the foundational belief structure upon which all SRA-SBL materials, teachings, and presentations rest.

Section 2.02 - God: His Person and Nature

God is the perfect, infinite, transcendent Creator of all that exists.

He exists eternally as one God, personal and able to be perceived and known by every entity and aspect of His creation.

He exists in three discernible Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, all possessing precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections,¹ and all worthy of precisely the same worship, confidence, and obedience,² and all identified by His own chosen name, *Yihyeh*, the God Who Exists, the LORD.³

Every action and activity of God, or of any one Person of God, fully involves every Person of God and is conducted in perfect accord with every Person of God.⁴

God is the Creator of all that exists.⁵

He has brought into existence, within His Person, the entirety of creation.⁶ Nothing exists outside His creation except His Person, and nothing is knowable outside the creation except the Person of God.

He is, thus, the Owner and Absolute Authority over all that exists, the One who established the inexorable criteria which govern all that exists and which form the boundary of existence.

He is the Designer of every thing and of every aspect of every thing that exists, not only in regard to its nature and substance, but also its every function and interaction.

He is the Definer of everything that exists, having established with perfect purpose the meaning and significance of all things and the systems within which they exist and interact.

He is the Sustainer of everything that exists, maintaining the entirety of His creation to bring it to the perfect end which existed in Him before He began His creative activity.⁷

¹ Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; John 1:1; 6:27; 14:10, 26; Acts 5:3-4.

² John 5:22-23; 14:16-17; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 3:22; 4:5.

³ This name, *Yihyeh*, often rendered *Yahweh* or *Jehovah*, is distinguished in the Authorized Version by the words "LORD" or "GOD" in all capital letters.

⁴ John 5:30; 6:38; 10:30; 17:22; Romans 8:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11; Hebrews 10:5-7; 1 John 5:7.

⁵ Genesis 1-2; Exodus 20:11; 1 Corinthians 15:38-39; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 11:3; Revelation 4:11.

⁶ Acts 17:28; Ephesians 4:6.

⁷ Colossians 1:17?????

Neither God Himself nor any Person of God can violate or misrepresent His Person as God, and therefore, that which He says or does cannot be different from who He is.⁸

This makes His every action perfect and His every expression perfectly consistent and indicative of Himself and His will.

God's Word, then, the Scripture, His revelation, is thereby the perfect and incorruptible expression of who He is and the criteria of His design.

These criteria are, therefore, not only absolutely binding, but also absolutely best, for everything that exists, regardless of any contradictory reasonings by any or all created beings, or their supposed perceptions, findings, and discoveries which appear to supersede these criteria.

The relationship of God to the creation dictates that the only true science is that science which is based in and upon, and which is in agreement with, the transcendent criteria of His design as He has revealed them or allowed man to perceive them.

His revelation specifies that He completed the creation of all that exists in six literal, solar days, and therefore, any alternate theories and explanations of origins, regardless of the supposed scientific or theological arguments for them, are false.

As Creator, the LORD God is not subject to the creation and, because the whole of creation exists within Him, He is the only God knowable by man and all that exists is absolutely accountable to Him and Him alone.

Accordingly, this makes His Word, that is, His every expression of Himself and His design criteria, the most valuable of all things knowable by man.

As Creator, the LORD God is not subject to the creation, but is able to intervene and interact with the creation and any of its systems in ways that transcend the finiteness of the creation.

God designed man perfectly and constructed the creation in a manner to allow man to apply his abilities to research and "discover" aspects of the creation and its intricately designed interactions.

He designed man to perform this activity, studying and evaluating the principles and governing criteria in the most extreme detail, in order to make the temporal life of man a valued and blessed existence.

The Creator, he may deceive himself into thinking he has arrived at truth, but in reality, he has but perceived that which God has already established, and for this reason, man possesses no ability or authority to decide how he will use that which he "discovers" or develops.

Section 2.03 - The Scriptures: God's Written Revelation of Himself and His Design

The Scriptures, comprised of both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, are the Word of God, directly inspired by Him and perfect in every word and part as they were given to those who originally received and inscribed them.⁹

The identity relationship between God and His every expression of Himself and His design makes the Scriptures the only valid rule of faith and practice for the believer in Jesus Christ¹⁰; and the sixty-six books of the Bible are the completed Canon, humans never having possessed the authority to add to

⁸ Malachi 3:6; Titus 1:2; James 1:17.

⁹ Matthew 5:17-18; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 119:160; John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16.

¹⁰ Isaiah 8:20; 1 Corinthians 14:37; Ephesians 2:20, 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

or take from it.¹¹

The Scriptures must be interpreted according to the normal understanding of the grammar and history of the people who received and inscribed them.

Though the Bible is not a "textbook" for any realm of study, its content supersedes that of any other mode of expression on any subject, and forms the standard against which all other expression must be compared, thereby determining the validity of all other expression.

The Scriptures were given to humans from the very beginning. God created the first humans fully mature and possessing every sense and ability they would need to successfully perform every function and interaction of their existence.

Thus, the various abilities which He built into humans did not need development or evolution in any fashion or to any degree, whether in the perceptual or physical realms, or in the linguistic realm.¹²

From the beginning, humans were able to communicate with God and other humans by whatever means appropriate to their needs and purposes, not the least of which would be the provision of an accurate record of the relationship of God to His creation and His earliest interactions with humans.¹³

Thus, God never left any humans in any age without sufficient revelation of Himself to enable them to walk in accord with His design for human existence, regardless of their language or mode of communication, and, since God has never changed, then His expression of Himself has also remained unchanged through the six millennia of history.¹⁴

The Scriptures were never the province of humans to determine their content, their interpretation, or their preservation. The Creator did not delegate to the entities and devices of a created world either the ability or the authority to determine the preservation of His revelation; the revelation was His, His expressions of Himself and His design, and the record of that revelation which humans now possess is complete and completely sufficient to guide and instruct them in every aspect of existence.

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¹¹ Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:5-6; Revelation 22:18-19.

¹² The effects of human experience, especially God's production of new, non-alphabetic languages at Babel, would result in conditions where humans would need to "invent" and "re-develop" their communication abilities, but this was not the original design condition.

¹³ Adam knew that his descendants, especially those through Cain, would need an unquestionable, accurate record not only of the origin of all things, but also the person and nature of the Creator.

¹⁴ Psalm 19:1-6.