

Josua Hönger, 29. August 2011

Statement of faith

I believe that God is the creator of all things. He made the heavens and the earth and all life, as is written in the creation account of the Bible (Genesis 1). There are various possibilities to explain the contradictions to modern science, but it is not the intention of this text to deal with that.

I believe that men (man and women) has fallen into sin due to his/her disobedience towards God, and due to that became a mortal being.

I believe in Gods ultimate justice. The penalty for sin seems utterly hard, however, God has revealed his love for our era through his son Jesus:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3, 16

There is no other way to God, as Jesus clearly witnesses himself:

I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 14, 6

Trough his death, entombment and resurrection about 2000 years ago, Jesus fulfilled 3 out of 7 *holy feasts of God* (Leviticus 23). Not only did he fulfill them perfectly in action but also in perfect timing according to the Jewish calendar. Due to that he can clearly be identified as the sole person in all of history that matches the prophecies of the ancient Hebrew scriptures about the “Anointed One” (In Hebrew “Messiah”, in Greek “Christos”, in English “Christ”). He died exactly according to the Mosaic Law (which was commanded by God) as the “Lamb of God” for the atonement of sin. He is the only perfect lamb ever accepted by God as such. Blood from the bloodline of God was necessary to atone our sins.

I believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that through his death he took the penalty of sin on my behalf. Through his sacrifice my sins are forgiven and I receive eternal life (after earthly death). I fully accept his testimony and take all his words from the Gospels of the Bible very seriously.

I am aware of lots of critics or historical questions about Jesus as a historical person. My belief is mainly based on today's books of the Bible. In order to understand the original Hebrew and Greek texts as good as possible, I am comparing various German

and English Translations. (Due to Computer/Internet technology sometimes even Greek and Hebrew scriptures with various dictionaries) The 4 Gospels bear witness (and with about 5000 nearly identical copies of the original texts compelling evidence!) about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus - no other events in history of that time have been documented and verified better than them.

My faith in God (the father) and Jesus Christ (his son) is free from any constraint or forced membership to any institution or denomination.

[Jesus says:] Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

Luke 6, 47-49

View about the end times

The 7 holy feasts of God (Leviticus 23) are symbolized in the Jewish Menorah (Lamp-stand with 7 arms in a row). Each of the lamps shines for one of the 7 holy feasts. This first 3 feasts have been fulfilled (lighted) in the first coming of Jesus, the last 3 will be fulfilled (enlighted) in his second coming. The middle (which is also the root of all branches) has been fulfilled at Pentecost by God himself through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Hence the first 4 feasts (3 spring feasts and 1 summer feast) have been fulfilled altogether in the Jewish calendar at the time of Jesus. There is much reason to expect the remaining 3 feasts (autumn feasts) to be fulfilled in the Jewish calendar at the promised second coming of Jesus, where he will come as ruling King (pictured in the Bible as Lion instead of a Lamb). Having said that, it must be added that today's Jewish calendar could be wrong as it debatable does no longer strictly follow all the rules given to Moses.

Regarding the time of the second coming of Jesus, the Bible gives no distinct information.

Famous personalities such as e.g. Sir Isaac Newton have spent their entire life studying Bible prophecies in much detail and searching for hidden keys about the second coming in the origin texts (according to Newton, he calculated the year 2060). In the Gospels (Matthews 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21), Jesus gives specific hints about preceding events (e.g. worldwide increase of wars/riots/revolutions, famines, pestilences, earthquakes, roaring of the sea, signs in the sun and the moon), which still allow a lot of speculation. Finally he points to the fig tree (which is in the Biblical context always the Symbol for the nation of Israel) as "prophetic clock". The foundation of the state of Israel in 1948, the conquest of Jerusalem in 1967 and today's discussion about splitting Israel in two parts right through the center of Jerusalem (foundation of Palestinian State) speak for themselves. The Generation seeing all this happen is the last one, Jesus said.

We have a free choice whether or not taking the warnings of Jesus seriously and whether the events of today are of relevance or not. I personally take the sings of the time (e. g. "Arab spring", also known as the "Arab revolution") very serious.

The concept of 6+1 is found everywhere in the Bible. It already starts at the very beginning when God creates the Heavens and the earth in 6 days, and rests on the 7th day. The same pattern is later instructed to Moses. In the famous 10 commandments, the 4th commandment demands to keep the 7th day (Sabbath, which is in fact Saturday and not Sunday) of the week as a holy day of rest. There are many more examples. Significant for today is to understand that God gives mankind 6000 years (the counting of the 6000 years starts with Adam) of self government in distress, followed by 1000 years ruled by Jesus in peace. The book of revelation in specific, as well as many other books throughout the entire Bible leave no doubt about that. According to rather simple

calculations (6000 years counted since Adam, or 2000 years counted since Jesus), we are inevitably somewhere very near at the end of the 6000 years. For the last 3.5- 7 years of those 6000 years (called Apocalypse, time of Jacobs trouble, time of tribulation, time of great distress) the Bible holds an incredible amount of prophecies about the nation of Israel and the believers in Jesus Christ. The second coming of Jesus (and the fulfillment of the remaining feasts) ought to happen at the very end of the 6000 years.

One particular event called 'the Rapture' of the believers in Jesus (also pictured in the Bible as the 'Bride of the Lamb') is rather argumentative even among Christians. Paul writes various things in his letters to the early assemblies of Christians, there are some specific passages in the book of Revelation, and also many supporting clues hidden in almost all books of the Bible. Depending on how to interpret relating scriptures, some come to the conclusion that the rapture happens at the beginning or during or at the end of the last 7 years. Others say there is no rapture at all. I personally came - after countless hours of studying the scriptures and spending time in prayer - to the conclusion to believe in a rapture *before* the Apocalypse. I don't believe in this out of fear from apocalyptic times, but due to deepest inner belief and trust in Gods outstanding love and promises.

Hence I am facing future in a relaxed way - in spite of all the worldwide negative news. Trough my intensive studies about the end times and related topics, I have found deep inner peace and joy, and my faith in Jesus has grown like never before.

I am aware that many people have been wrong in the past in their understanding of the Bible - especially about the end of times! Hence I am careful with specific predictions or expectations. What seriously worries me is that due to peoples lack of knowledge in the Bible, they are living a desperate life without hope, and they are afraid of death or the thought of a coming apocalypse. Exactly as Jesus predicted it, those people will one day be surprised as by a "thief in the night" - tragically this potentially includes many of todays so called Christians who are not striving to live in holiness.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

Hebrews 12, 14

I have all reason to be happy if life continues as usual, as I have the luck of having a wonderful family and a challenging (as well as rewarding) job. However, making Jesus the number one priority in life and longing to be with him in my daily life is not a contradiction but a God given blessing for everybody around me.

Prayer

If you read this text and feel like it is time to make the most important step in your life and in eternity, then please pray the following prayer:

Father in heaven, I realize, admit and regret that I have sinned. I ask you from the bottom of my heart to forgive me! Thank you Jesus that you died for my sins so that they are forgiven, and that through you I will receive eternal life. I subordinate myself to you from now on and in all eternity. Please help me through the Holy Spirit to live my life to your honor. Amen!