



The Berean Study Guide: Part 1

Biblical Frameworks on Marriage, Salvation,
Daily Struggle, and Church History

Based on the teaching of Peter Foxwell | The Cornerstone Church

“They received the word with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”

— Acts 17:11 (The Berean Mandate)



Reflect: Use these visual frameworks during personal devotions.

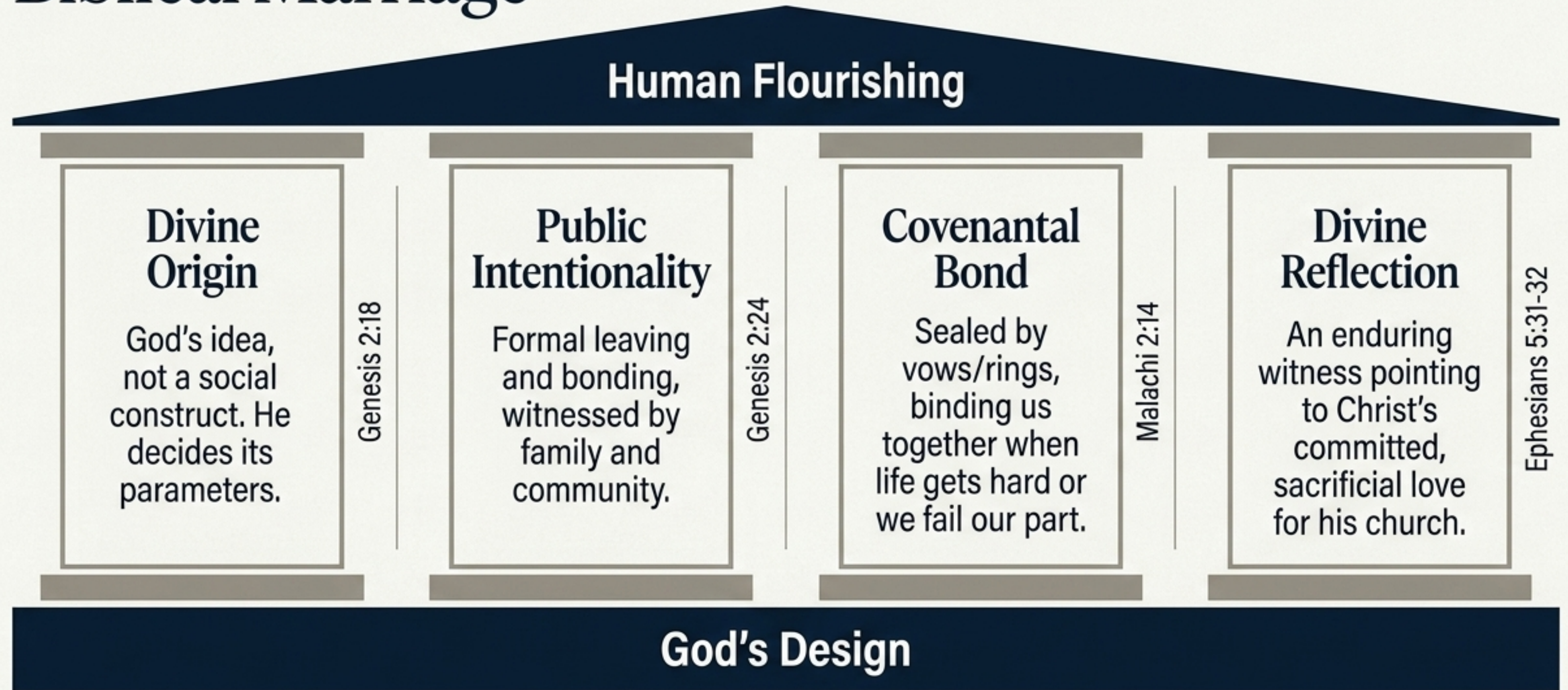


Discuss: Spark conversation in your small group settings.



Apply: Align daily cultural realities with enduring biblical truth.

The Architecture of Biblical Marriage



Common Law vs. Covenant

Common Law / Cohabitation

- Lacks the intentional, public, and covenantal weight required to reflect Christ.
- Relies on social or legal assumptions rather than binding vows.

Factoid:

The State of Michigan has not recognized common law marriage since 1957.

Covenant Marriage

- Solemnized before God and witnesses.
- A sacred, enduring witness designed to promote human flourishing.

Living together outside this structure desecrates its sacred purpose.
Choose to do life God's way.

Can a Christian lose their salvation?

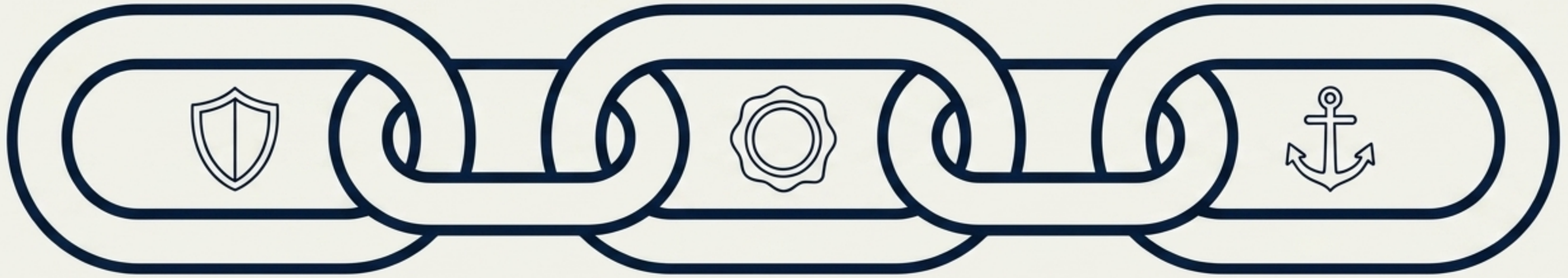
NO, BUT... 

We must radically differentiate between those who merely profess faith and those who actually possess it.

The Professing Christian Typology

	Temporary Christians	Counterfeit Christians	Genuine Christians
The Marker	Fall away from faith due to situations or godless lifestyles.	Use religion for personal agendas (money, power, sex).	Turn from sin, trust Jesus sincerely.
The Root	Shallow ground (Matthew 13 - Parable of the Sower).	Corrupt minds resisting truth (2 Timothy 3:6-8).	Regenerated by the Holy Spirit.
The Reality	Never actually saved.	Never actually saved.	Secured by an unbreakable covenant.

The Anatomy of Eternal Security



Guarded by Power

(1 Peter 1:5) Protected by God's power through faith for final salvation.

Sealed by the Spirit

(Ephesians 1:13-14) The Holy Spirit serves as the official down payment guaranteeing our inheritance.

Sanctified by the Caller

(1 Thessalonians 5:23-24) The God of peace promises to keep our spirit, soul, and body sound. He who calls you is faithful; he will do it.

Security isn't based on human perfection, but on God's promises keeping us from fatally falling away.

Redefining the Abundant Life (John 10:10)

Worldly Abundance



Biblical Abundance

Ultimate spiritual life,
protection by the
Good Shepherd, and
eternal life with God

At its core, abundance is knowing God and Jesus Christ (John 17:3).
There is no secular equivalent to that.

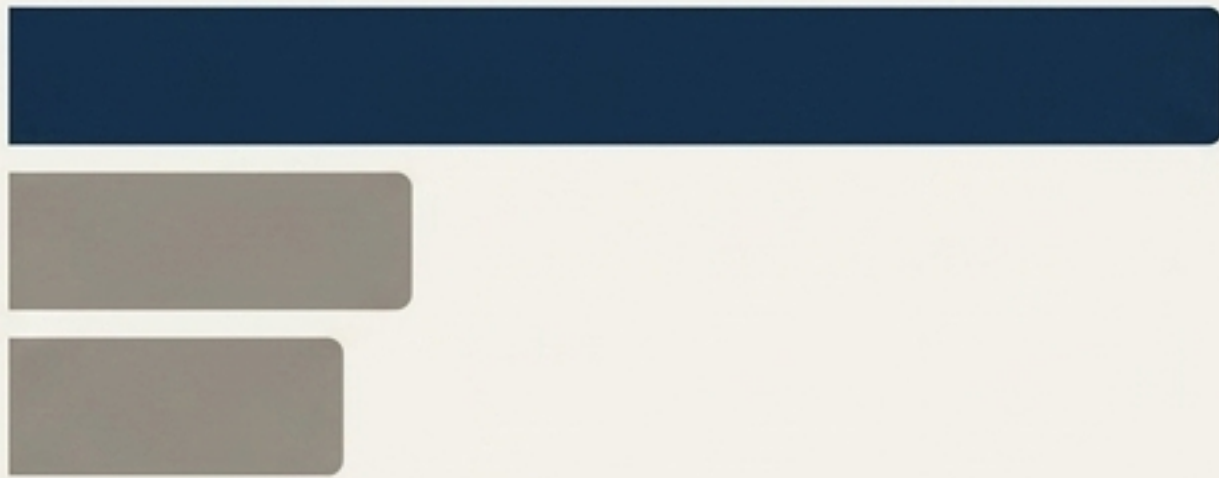
The Paradox of the Normal Christian Life



Galatians 5:17 — The perpetual struggle between the flesh and the Spirit. This reality does not excuse our failures, but it explains them. We remain *deeply flawed and desperately need Jesus as our continuous advocate (1 John 2:1).*

The Measurable Difference

Ethics: Arizona Christian University, 2024



Evangelicals are statistically far more likely to reject lying, stealing, and extramarital sex than the cultural norm.

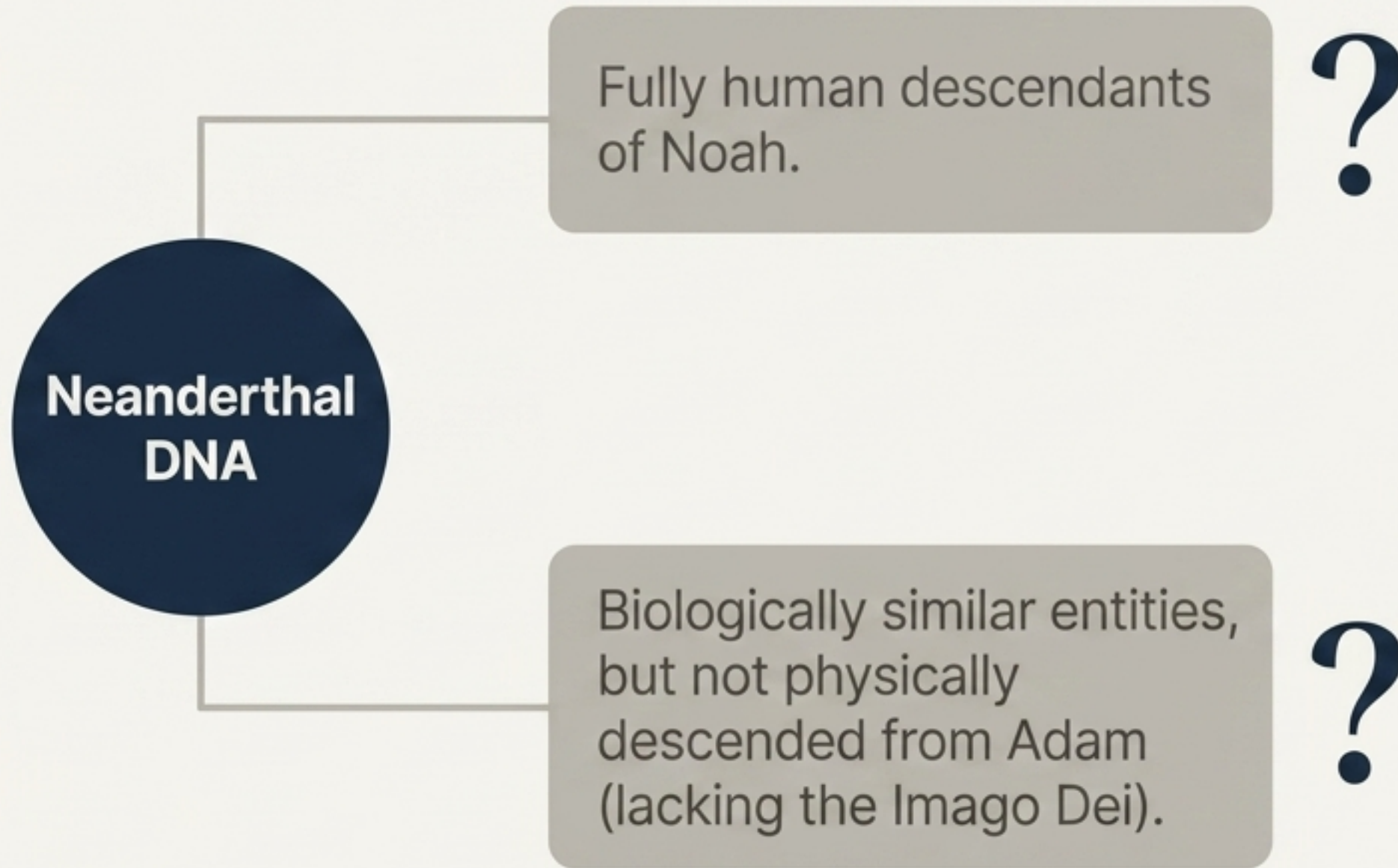
Generosity: American Bible Society, 2025



Individuals who read their Bibles multiple times weekly demonstrate significantly higher levels of financial generosity.

We look flawed because we are. But the presence of the Spirit yields an empirically different life.

The Neanderthal Enigma



The Limits of Biblical Revelation

The Bible is silent on Neanderthals.

Genesis 1-12 is not an exhaustive anthropology. It is highly focused on three things:

1. Creation out of nothing.
2. Corruption through rebellion.
3. Covenant restoration.

The Truth About In Jesus' Name

It is not an automatic magic formula for answered prayer. It represents Access (John 14:13-14) — praying based on Christ's merit for God's glory.



Early Church

Primarily Trinitarian: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

1840s

First widespread documentation of ending prayers strictly in Jesus' name.

18th & 19th Century

The practice becomes the widespread cultural norm.

The Validity of Written Liturgy



Historical Context: Jesus himself prayed the Psalms from the cross and participated in daily synagogue liturgies (Luke 4:16).

The Inevitability of Awakenings



Awakenings are a sovereign work of God. Secular forces cannot thwart them. Jesus will build his church, and hell won't hold him back.

The Unshakeable Sovereignty of God

From the intimacy of human relationships to the global sweep of history, God's sovereignty remains the unifying bedrock of the Christian worldview:

- He defines the exact bounds of our flourishing (Marriage).
- He actively guarantees and seals our eternal security (Salvation).
- He advocates for us through the jagged reality of our daily struggles (Sanctification).
- He orchestrates unstoppable movements of grace across the globe (Awakenings).

End of Part 1. Examine the Scriptures daily to see if these things are so.