

Spirit's Day Studies

Diane Guerrero
Email: diane@spiritsday.org



Acts 5:32
And we are his witnesses...and so is also
the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given
to them that obey Him.

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Spirit's Day
stands
with Israel



I Believe

The Bible

I believe the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God, inerrant in the original writings; that the Holy Scriptures are God-breathed, and the final authority for faith, morals, doctrine, and Christian conduct. The Bible is its own interpreter, and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, man is able to understand the Word of God for himself. Therefore I reject the teaching that man cannot understand the Bible without the aid of a particular church, organization, or religious society. (MAT. 5:18; 2TIM. 3:16-17; ISA. 28:10; PSA. 119:18)

God and the Trinity

I believe in one God, who is Creator of man and the universe; who has chosen to reveal Himself in three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, yet who is one in being, essence, and glory; that there were no gods formed before Him, neither shall there be any formed after Him. God is eternal, infinite, sovereign, omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. While God is love, and is gracious, merciful, and good; He is also holy, righteous, and just. (DEU. 6:4; COL. 1:16; 2COR. 13:14; JOH. 10:30; ISA. 43:10; PSA. 90:2; 1TIM. 1:17; PSA. 93:1; PSA. 139:1-6, PSA. 139:7-13; REV. 19:6; ISA. 6:3; DEU. 32:4; EXO. 9:27; 1JOH. 4:8; EPH. 2:8; 1PET. 1:3; ROM. 8:28)

Jesus Christ

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Word of God, the Messiah of Israel, and God incarnate; that He humbled Himself by taking on the nature of His creation, so that He might save all who call upon Him in repentance and faith. (JOH. 1:1; ZEC. 12:9-10; ISA. 7:14; COL. 1:15; HEB. 2:9; ACTS 20:21)

I believe that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, conceived of the Holy Spirit, and that He is fully God and fully man; that He alone lived a perfect and sinless life, and that all His teachings are true. Therefore I reject as unscriptural that anyone other than Jesus Christ was conceived without sin or lived a perfect and sinless life. (ISA. 7:14; LUK. 1:36; 2COR. 5:21; ROM. 3:23)

I believe that the Lord Jesus died on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice for all humanity; that His one sacrifice was sufficient to provide salvation for all who trust and believe in Him as Savior; that our justification is grounded in the shedding of His blood; and that His completed work on the cross is confirmed by His literal, physical, and bodily resurrection from the dead. Therefore I reject as unscriptural the teaching that additional sacrifices must be offered, or that any other individual, church

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organization, or religious society holds the authority or power of salvation. (1JOH. 2:2; ISA. 53:5-6; JOH. 1:12; ACTS 16:31; ROM. 5:9; EPH. 1:7; MAT. 28:6; 1PET. 1:3)

I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died a physical, mortal death; that He was in the grave three days and three nights; that He resurrected in a physical and glorified body; that He then ascended into Heaven, and is now seated at the right hand of God as our High Priest and Advocate. (JOH. 19:34; MAT. 27:50; MAT. 12:40; ACTS 1:9-10; ROM. 8:34; HEB. 7:25)

I believe that Jesus alone is Savior; that God sent no other man or woman to be the savior of the world; and that there is no other name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved; I believe that ultimately every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Therefore I reject as the teaching that there are many different roads to the one true God, or that there are many different paths to Jesus. (ACTS 4:12; 1JOH. 4:14; ISA. 45:23; ROM. 14:11; PHI. 2:10)

The Holy Spirit

I believe in the deity and personality of the Holy Spirit; that He convicts sinners, spiritually regenerates those who trust in Him as Savior, and indwells those who are born again. He is the agent by whom Christ baptizes the faithful into His body; and is the seal which guarantees a full salvation unto the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit is also the Divine Teacher, who illumines the hearts and minds of Christ's followers as they study the Word of God. (ACTS 5:3-4; JOH. 16:8; TIT. 3:5; ROM. 8:9; 1COR. 12:12-14; EPH. 1:13-14; 1COR. 2:9-12)

Man's Sinfulness

I believe that mankind came into existence by a direct creative act of God, and that at creation man was uniquely made in the image and likeness of God. I believe that through Adam's fall, every man, woman and child have inherited a sinful nature; and that therefore all mankind (with the exception of Jesus Christ) have sinned; and that all sin is exceedingly offensive to God. I believe that mankind, either on its own or through any church organization or religious society, is utterly unable to remedy this fallen state. Therefore I reject as unscriptural the teaching that we, on our own or through any church, religion or organization, can do anything on our own to render ourselves acceptable to God for salvation. (GEN. 1:26-27; ROM. 3:23; ROM. 6:23; EPH. 2:1-5, 12)

Salvation

I believe that salvation is a free gift received by faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone, through God's grace alone, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures alone, and to the glory of God alone. By Christ's death and resurrection He fully accomplished our justification (our right standing before God), and our future bodily resurrection and glorification; for Christ died in our place, and bore our sins in His own body. Therefore I reject as unscriptural the teaching that salvation can be obtained through admittance or membership in any church organization or religious society. (JOH. 3:16; EPH. 2:8; ROM. 3:24-28, 4:25; 2TIM. 3:16-17; ISA. 42:8; 1COR. 15:12-17; ROM. 5:8-9; 1PET. 2:24)

I believe that good works and obedience are results of salvation—not requirements for salvation. Good works and changed lives are the inevitable results and evidence of true and saving faith. Therefore I reject as unscriptural the teaching that good works, keeping the Ten Commandments or the Law of Moses are requirements for salvation. (GAL. 2:16; ROM. 5:1; EPH. 2:8-9)

I believe in the eternal security of salvation, that one is kept by God's power, secured and sealed in Christ forever. Therefore I reject as unscriptural the teaching that a person can lose their salvation

through excommunication or disfellowship from any church organization or religious society. (JOH. 6:37-40, 10:27-30; ROM. 8:1, 38-39; EPH. 1:13-14; 1PET. 1:5; JUDE 24)

The Church

I believe that all true believers, in whatsoever Christian denomination they adhere, to be the true Church of Jesus Christ, which the Bible also calls "the Body of Christ." Thus the Church is not a building, society, institution or religious organization, but rather a living spiritual "organism," made up of true believers from all over the world. Since the time of His physical ascension into Heaven, the Lord has been adding believers to this unique body. The Bible declares that the Head of this church is Christ Jesus alone. Therefore I reject as unscriptural the teaching that there exists a sole figure, church organization or religious society as Christ's particular and exclusive representative head on earth. (1PET. 2:5; COL. 1:24; ROM. 12:5; EPH. 4:12; JER. 31:33; EZE. 37:23; 1COR. 6:19; 1COR. 12:13; ROM. 11:25; COL. 1:18; 1COR. 12:12-14; EPH. 1:22-23; COL. 1:18)

Ordinances (Baptism and the Lord's Supper)

I believe in the ordinance of water baptism, to be performed upon intelligent and conscious conversion to the faith of Jesus Christ; that outward, water baptism is a public testimony of faith in the Lord, in identification with His death, burial, and resurrection; that water baptism is to be performed upon conversion to the faith (or soon after), in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and that baptism involves a repentance toward God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore I reject as unscriptural the teaching that one can be saved or born-again through outward water baptism, or that this baptism can wash away original sin. (ACTS 2:41, 8:36-38, 18:8; COL. 2:12; MAT. 28:19; ACTS 20:21)

I believe water baptism to be separate and distinct from the Baptism of the Holy Spirit—which is given to those who are already converted to the faith of Jesus Christ. By this Holy Spirit baptism, the Lord sanctifies (separates and makes holy) and empowers faithful believers who have been obedient to God, and who entreat the Lord for His Spirit by "asking, seeking, and knocking." I believe that all true Christians should actively seek this unique and glorious gift. Thus I reject as unscriptural the teaching that conversion of necessity implies the reception of this gift. Nor do I believe that speaking in tongues is required evidence of this baptism. (ACTS 5:32, 1:8, 2:38, 8:15-19, 19:2; 2THES. 2:13; 1PET. 1:2; LUK. 11:9-13; 1COR. 12:30)

I believe in the ordinance of the Lord's Supper as a commemoration of the "once-for-all" sacrifice of Christ that is to be done "in remembrance" of His death and shed blood; that it is a prophetic representation of the direct, conscious, and spiritually tangible indwelling of the Holy Spirit, by which the born-again (spiritually renewed) Christian may feed spiritually upon the spiritual body of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, I reject as unscriptural the teaching that literal bread and wine is, or ever can become the literal body and blood of Jesus; or that the observance is a repetition or perpetuation of Christ's sacrifice at Calvary; or that the observance itself has a literal propitiatory nature; or that the Lord Jesus Christ can ever be sacrificed again. (1COR. 11:23-26; MAT. 3:11; GAL. 3:27; 1COR. 12:13; HEB. 7:27, 9:26, 10:12; ROM. 6:9-10)

The Return of Christ Jesus

I believe in the "blessed hope," which is the personal and imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ: He will retrieve and translate His faithful servants; He will save and restore the nation of Israel; and He will judge the wicked and the unbelieving. I believe He will return visibly and bodily to the Earth to establish His promised Millennial Kingdom; and that His physical return will take place when the nation of Israel repents of their unbelief, and cries out to Jesus to save them. Therefore I reject as un-

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scriptural the teaching that Jesus Christ has already returned *as King*, either spiritually or bodily, or that the Millennial Kingdom has already begun. (TIT. 2:13; 1THES. 4:13-18; ZEC. 14:4-11; ACTS 17:30-31; 2TIM 4:1; REV. 20:12; MAT. 23:39; HOS. 5:15)

Resurrection

I believe in the future bodily resurrection of all mankind; that the true living saints of God (the Body of Christ) will be translated along with the Old Testament believers; and that the resurrection of the unbelieving and of the wicked will transpire at the Great White Throne Judgment—which is to occur at the end of the 1,000-year reign of Christ. (1THES. 4:13-18; REV. 20:1-6; JOH. 5:28-29; REV. 20:12-13)

I believe that upon death, the souls of true Christians are "absent from the body and present with the Lord," where they await their full resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (LUK. 23:43; 2COR. 5:8; PHI. 1:23, 3:21; 1THES. 4:16-17)

I believe that after death the souls of the unbelieving and of the wicked remain in conscious misery, until the time of their resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are to be reunited, in order to appear at the Great White Throne Judgment. By refusing the free gift of salvation and forgiveness through Christ Jesus, these will now be judged according to their deeds performed while they were alive on Earth. (MAT. 25:41-46; MAR. 9:43-48; LUK. 16:19-26; 2THES. 1:7-9; REV. 20:11-15)

Angels, Satan, Demons

I believe in the reality and personality of angels. I believe that God created the angels to be His servants and messengers. (NEH. 9:6; PSA. 148:2; HEB. 1:14)

I believe in the existence and personality of Satan and demons. Satan is a fallen angel who led a group of angels in rebellion against God. He is the great enemy of God and man; the demons are his evil servants. Satan and his demons will be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (ISA. 14:12-17; EZE. 28:12-15; MAT. 25:41; REV. 20:10)

Israel

I believe the Lord God has TWO Chosen Peoples, and that both the Church and Israel have their distinct and separate places and responsibilities in the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven. The Scriptures are clear: Israel is the WIFE of Jehovah; the Church is the Virgin Bride of Christ.

The nation of Israel possesses a special covenant with Yahweh; that by God's sovereign will, Israel serves as a channel of His blessing to the entire world; that Israel was chosen to be a witness to the nations, that the world might glorify the one true God. God's election of Israel is a unique relationship that is irrevocable; and certain promises are unconditional. (GEN. 28:13; GEN. 17:7; GEN. 12:1-3; ISA. 43:7; 2SAM. 7:12-16; ISA. 43:10; ROM. 11:28-29)

I believe that Israel is separate and distinct from the Church—for Israel was CHOSEN in Abraham *from* the foundation of the world, while the Church was CHOSEN in Jesus *before* the foundation of the world. I believe that Israel it is central to God's plan for mankind (past, present, and future); and that the unfulfilled Bible prophecies given to Israel will find their literal fulfillment in the near future. Therefore I reject as unscriptural the teaching that the Church has replaced Israel in God's plan; that Israel has forfeited the promises expressly given them by God, and that therefore the Church has inherited those promises. (MATT. 25:34; EPH. 1:4-6; PSA. 105:6-10)

Universal Reconciliation

The Holy Scriptures that tell us that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world; that this Jesus was made a ransom for ALL; and that as in Adam ALL die, so in Christ shall ALL be made alive. Therefore I believe in the universal reconciliation of the whole human race—through Christ Jesus ALONE. I believe that everything and everyone that has become fallen, and therefore miserable and desolate, will be repaired and restored through the atoning and redeeming work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore I reject as unscriptural the teaching that those that depart this world in an unbelieving state have no further hope of salvation; for Christ's atoning work is able to extend even into the depths of Hell (PSA. 139:8). However, my belief in Universal Reconciliation does not contradict my belief in a literal place and state called "Hell," or that salvation can be obtained through any other means than the suffering, crucifixion, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. (JOH. 1:29; ROM. 5:14, 11, 19, 21; 1COR. 15:22; 1TIM. 2:6)