

Safe Haven Berean Fellowship

Statement of Faith, supplement

This document provides a supplement to the Safe Haven Berean Fellowship Statement of Faith, issued on July 8, 2015.

The purpose of this document is to provide additional information to the referenced document in order to expand the Safe Haven statement of faith regarding foundational issues of the Christian faith.

These issues of faith are taken from Genesis chapters 1-11.

This document is designed to “think foundationally” (from the beginning) and provide a truly Christian worldview which addresses issues such as:

- Creation (as opposed to big bang/evolution) – the beginnings of mankind
- Gender
- Noah’s Flood
- Abortion
- Marriage
- Racism

This document also addresses the issue of why the earth is full of death, disease and suffering.

Important to note: This is a “foundational document.”

1. Thinking foundationally

- The right foundation on which we build is the rock of God’s Word, the Bible. Simply put...no other foundation will work (nor is any other authorized).
God is the designer and Creator and He tells us how to live in His creation.
- Within the pages of God’s Word, we believe that Genesis 1-11 is the appropriate foundation for the rest of the Bible, all doctrine and our Christian world-view.

We begin with the history that God has revealed to us in these chapters.

2. The history of the world can be viewed as 7 C’s:

Creation – “The “world **was perfect** as originally created by God – see Gen. 1-2

Corruption – Sin and death entered the world. – See Gen. 3

Catastrophe – Noah’s flood covering the entire earth occurred. – Gen. 6-9,
in approximately 2320 B.C.

(the wickedness and judgment of man)

Confusion – Languages were confused at the tower of Babel after Noah’s flood –
(see Gen. 11)

Christ – enters into history as a baby to become the Savior of the world. ~ 5 B.C.
(see Gospels Matthew through John)

Cross – Jesus dies on the cross for the sins of mankind. – Gospels – approx. 30
A.D.

Consummation – One day “soon”, Jesus will return to the earth, judge the
present creation with fire and create a new heaven and earth. – see book
of Revelation.

Note: The “soon” (in the statement above) is based upon the restoration
and beginning return of Israel to the land, the repopulation of the nation of
Israel in 1948.)

Today, approximately 50% of the Jews in the world now live in Israel.

This is a predecessor and key milestone for the return of Christ for His
people presently in the world. Note that there are no other major events
that must occur in the world before He comes.

Also of note: He will come for His people but His feet will not touch the
earth. (This is prior to His return referred to as “The 2nd
coming.”)

3. Topics to be discussed:

A. Creation of the world

In the beginning of chapter 1 of God’s book, *God exists*. (“In the
beginning God... Gen. 1:1)

He existed before there was time, space and a material universe.

He is self-existent and eternal, infinitely perfect, the Creator, Sustainer and
Ruler of all things.

(An origin of God is never discussed.)

The account of origins provided in Genesis 1-11 is a simple but factual
presentation of actual events and therefore, provides a reliable framework
for scientific research into questions of origin, history of life, mankind, the
earth and the universe.

The first chapter of Genesis tells us that God created the earth, the world
(including stars and planets) and all that is in it by His spoken Word.

The entirety of creation was accomplished in an orderly fashion by the power of God's word. His creative works demonstrate His unfathomable and unlimited power.

His creative acts (earth, stars, planets, etc.) occurred in a 6-day period.

He rested (ceased from His creative work) on the seventh day.

He placed animals and the man and woman that He created on the earth.

It was all very good and was with purpose.

There were no defects in His creative acts.

He exhibits a special interest in a small planet called earth.

There is no evidence that this creation "just happened."

A note about evolution:

Some scientists today believe that the beginnings of our universe occurred billions of years ago (number of years undetermined) by an evolutionary process from a "singularity," a singular mass or matter. (This theory known as the big bang, was created in the 18th and 19th centuries A.D.)

It is important to note that this theory is a hypothetical postulation that has no basis in science.

No one was there (obviously) to witness this occurrence.

There is no way to prove that this did in fact occur in the manner often described.

However, by observing "Laws of the Universe" today, we can determine that this theory is fallacious.

For example: The laws of genetics we understand today tell us that a mass (matter) cannot spontaneously generate information or instruction.

Therefore, the generation of an entire universe cannot have occurred by way of a singularity.

B. Creation of the man and woman/gender

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female" (Gen. 1:27) and gave them dominion over the earth.

Mankind, consisting of two genders (male and female) was created in the image/likeness of God.

God's creation of the man and woman was different from His other acts of creation (e.g. animals, fish, birds, etc.).

He created the man from the dust of the ground. (Gen. 2:7)

He created the woman from a rib that was taken from the man. Gen. 2:21-22) They, the man and woman, were alike, but were different.

So, God began the human race with only two genders in humans, male and female. And that hasn't changed!

Note that only the man and woman were created in God's image (likeness). No animals were created in God's image!

All human life is sacred and begins at conception (the moment of fertilization.) Each unborn child is a unique, living human being, created in the image of God and must be respected and protected both before and after birth.

A note on sexual reproduction: One set of chromosomes comes from the mother and one set from the father. DNA from the male and female come together at fertilization. Therefore, each fertilized egg with DNA comes from the mother **and** the father.

Gender is determined at fertilization by DNA and unless someone can change their DNA (they can't) they can only affect the manifestations of their gender. The gender does not change.

This is a unique combination of information, different from the father, different from the mother, but all of the information came from the mother and father.

Each person has a unique combination of information. (The fertilized egg is not a part of the woman's body.)

Each person has a unique combination of information having been made in God's image from the very moment of fertilization onward.

The fertilized egg is a human person awaiting birth.

Other creatures and their kinds:

In Gen. 1:24 God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds – livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.

All other creatures were created in a manner different from the creation of the man and woman.

And God gave dominion over the sea, birds, livestock and over all the earth and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth to the man. (Gen. 1:26)

C. Marriage

The only legitimate marriage, based upon the creation ordinance of Genesis 1 and 2 sanctioned by God, is the joining of one naturally born man and one naturally born woman in a single, exclusive union as described in Scripture.

God intends that sexual intimacy only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other and has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman.

Any form of sexual immorality such as adultery, fornication, prostitution, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, abuse, or any attempt to change one's gender, is sinful and offensive to God.

A person's gender and biological sex are equivalent and cannot be separated. A person's gender is determined at conception (fertilization) coded in the DNA and cannot be changed by drugs, hormones or surgery.

Rejection of one's biological sex (gender) or identifying oneself by the opposite sex is a sinful rejection of the way God made that person.

See: Gen. 2:7, 18, 20, 21-22, 23, 24

The Genesis account tells us that God made the first man from the dust of the earth. (He didn't make him from an ape-man or some previously existing animal. And he didn't evolve from a singularity.)

Eventually, when we die, our physical bodies will return to the dust of the earth. (Our spirit will continue to live.)

Note that God brought animals to Adam to name but none of them were made in the image of God, only the man.

The woman came from the man not from an ape-woman or some other animal. (God took a rib from the man to make the woman.)

They (the man and the woman) were alike but were different.

Gen. 2:24 tells us that God created marriage.

When He did, it was one man and one woman, male and female.

So, there is only one kind of marriage ordained in Scripture – one biological male and one biological female.

See also Matt. 19:4-5

According to the Scriptures, there is only one kind of marriage, the one God ordained.

D. Dealing with death, suffering and disease.

From Genesis 1:31, we understand that God saw everything that He had made and it was all very good.

However, if we look around us today, we see that **the world is not very good.** In fact, it is not good at all and continues to worsen.

What we now see is a fallen world, not the world as God had originally made it. And without God, it will self-destruct.

Chapter 3 of Genesis gives an account of how the devil (*nachash* – a hissing creature, a snake, a serpent) tempted the woman and both she and the man ate the fruit that was forbidden by God.

As a result, God pronounced judgments on the devil, the man and on the woman.

Among these judgments was pain for the woman in child birth and the ground was cursed so that it became a toil for Adam.

Also, as a result of man's disobedience, the man and woman were driven out of the garden of Eden. Dwelling in Eden was no longer possible.

So death was an intrusion. It was not a part of God's original creation!!!

Today, we are waiting for a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (2 Pet. 3:13)

This is important: What the Bible teaches about the origin of death does not agree with the belief that death over millions of years was a part of the process of producing the life forms that are presently living on the earth.

The idea of millions of years came from atheists and deists in the 18th and 19th centuries A.D. (~ 6000 years after God's creative activities.)

This was the attempt of men to explain the fossil record (from Noah's flood) without any reference to God or His Word.

Additionally, it removes the record of punishment of man due to sin.

It divorces man from any responsibility on the part of man to the Creator.

Garments of skin:

When Adam sinned, God made garments of skin for Adam and Eve.
(This was the origin of clothing – the first animal death.)

God gave clothes because of sin because sin distorts our thinking.

This was the first blood sacrifice provided as a covering for the sins of Adam and Eve.

Death was the consequence of man's sin.

Today, many church leaders and teachers are adding millions of years into the account of creation. (even though the record of ages provided in the Bible only shows that the earth is approximately 6000 years old.)

Darwin proposed his ideas of biological evolution and now many church leaders are adding this to the Bible saying that God used the “big bang theory” in the creation of the world.

This is entirely speculation and does not agree with the scriptural account.

E. The flood of Noah:

Noah was the only righteous person on the earth and God decided to spare him and his family from the destruction to occur on the earth.

God brought a world-wide judgment on mankind, an all-encompassing world-wide flood, because of their sin.

The great flood of Genesis was an actual historic event, worldwide (global) in its extent and catastrophic in its effects.

At one stage, during the flood, the waters covered the entire surface of the whole globe with no land being exposed anywhere.

Noah's flood is not to be understood as any form of a local or regional geological event. This was a very significant event and most fossil sediments on the earth were deposited at that time. (See Gen. 7:19-20 and 2 Peter 3:5-7.

If there was a global flood, you would find billions of dead things buried in the rock layers laid down by the waters that covered the earth.

And that's exactly what we do find!

Most of the fossil record is the graveyard of the world wide flood that occurred approximately 4300 years ago.

It is not the graveyard of millions of years of death and dying on the earth.

F. Racism:

About a hundred years after the flood there was an event that occurred on the earth at the tower of Babel (in the near east).

In summary, the people rebelled against God whose intention was that they should populate the whole earth. They wanted to build a tower to the heavens (astrology) instead of expanding and being dispersed throughout the earth.

To effect the dispersion He desired, God gave all of the people on the earth different languages.

About 70 family groups (probably 70 language groups) moved away from each other due to the difficulties of communication. This was the initial formation of the different cultural groups we have today.

Every human on the face of the earth is a descendant of Adam and Eve and subsequently of Noah.

Since all humans are made in the image of God, all humans have equal dignity and value regardless of age, intelligence, gender, physical ability, shade of skin tone, religion, ethnicity or any other characteristic.

This means that biologically, there is only one race, the human race, Adam's race.

Adam and Eve were the first two humans.

As a result...there are not different races of people, but different people groups that formed as a result of the event at the tower of Babel.

As people groups moved away from each other, depending on who married whom, what combinations of DNA they received and who died out, eventually specific external characteristics (that represent a small percentage of human generic information) arose.

Even skin shade is a minor difference genetically.

All humans are the same basic color from the main pigment melanin - a brown pigment.

A summary of our battle:

There are two primary foundations, two principle worldviews: God's view and Man's view.

- Beginnings:

Creation – God created the world in 6 days.

Evolution – The world began with a “singularity” which exploded in a big bang which then expanded over billions of years.

Noone can explain how this singularity came into being.

By the way, don't big bangs destroy things? (think firecracker, cherry bomb, grenade)

Note: Modern genetic studies maintain that a mass (singularity) does not have the ability to spontaneously create instruction or information.

Hence, a singularity (as postulated by evolutionists) cannot be the source of information or instruction or of the world.

To conclude:

The big bang is only a theory.

There is no proof, no evidence that it actually occurred.

There was no one there (7 billion years ago) to confirm that which is postulated by evolutionists.

- Racism:

Man's word (different races)

God's Word: one race, (the human race)

- Marriage:

Man's word – define marriage however you want to

God's Word – marriage – one biological man and one biological woman (see Gen. 1,2)

- Gender:

Man's word – a person can decide to be a gender different than their biological sex and can use chemicals and bodily mutilation to accomplish whatever they desire to achieve.

God's Word – gender: only two in humans – male and female

- Abortion:

Man's word – We're just animals, abortion is health care.

We can do what we are pleased to do.

Note that our current political administration places no value on the lives of unborn humans and is planning on rolling back existing

protections to allow more mothers to murder their unborn child as freely as possible.

God's word – abortion = killing a human being made in the image of God.

A note: Killing an unborn child in its mother's womb, is no different a killing than that of a baby/child who has come through the birthing process.

Today, the generations that are growing up are taught that all of reality is explained by natural processes.

The supernatural is not permitted.

In the world today, for many, revelation from God is not the foundation of choice for our time on the earth.

What the world wants is what the world thinks and desires, apart from any intervention by a celestial being.