



## BIBLICAL GUIDELINES AND PARAMETERS FOR CROSSWAYS INTERNATIONAL

1. To unravel the narrative in the *Hebrew Scriptures*, it is important to understand:
  - God's covenants with: Adam; Noah; Abraham; Israel at Mt. Sinai; David; His New Testament people.
  - How the Israelites understood the nature of, and reason for, obedience;
  - That the law-codes in the Hebrew scriptures were given only to the Jewish people;
  - The convictions that developed concerning land, Jerusalem, the Temple, genetic uniqueness;
  - The postexilic hope for eventual Jewish dominion over the nations of the world—as defined most clearly in the book of Daniel, especially in the vision of “the Son of Man” in chapter 7.
2. To understand the message of the New Testament (the “Gospel,” the “good news” of the breaking in of God’s true Kingdom), and the manner in which Jesus fulfilled the **Law** (not merely *commandments*, but the Genesis-Deuteronomy *narrative*) and the **Prophets**, it is essential to decipher:
  - The Old Testament narrative and the themes that surface within it;
  - The contents of the intertestamental Apocryphal and Pseudepigraphical writings;
  - Jewish belief/law systems in the Mishnah (A.D. 200) and Talmuds (A.D. 450-550);
  - The radical nature of the **Messianic Age** that broke in with the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth—humanity’s forgiving Savior and servant Lord;
  - How Jesus reinterpreted Jewish hopes concerning rescue from exile and political bondage—in ways that infuriated the Jewish leaders;
  - Jesus *revealed* and *conquered* humanity’s **true enemy**, the Satanic/demonic power.
3. St. Paul declares that Jesus’ ministry and teachings are the “final word” in relation to all Old Testament beliefs and hopes. Jesus the Servant Messiah is God’s Living Word and ultimate model for life (not the ten or 613 commandments—given only to Jews). Jesus gives us only one commandment: “*Love one another as I have loved you.*”
4. There is no secular realm. Life is directed by either the **Deadly Trio** of devil, world, and flesh, or the **Living Word**, Jesus the Servant Messiah, through His Word and Holy Spirit.
5. The key theme embedded in the four Gospels is that of Jesus as *Son of Man* (82 times). In Daniel 7, the hope expressed is that the day will come when the Jewish people (the “son of man”) will be given **dominion over the nations of the world forever**. Jesus, **the true Son of Man**, created a community that is to focus on **servicing the world forever!**
6. Political systems have no right to impose any religious belief on constituents. However, Christianity and politics dare not be compartmentalized. Political leaders govern according to either the whims of the Deadly Trio, or the will of God revealed in the ministry of Jesus the Messiah, humanity’s forgiving Savior and servant Lord. *There is no secular realm!*
7. God’s ministry must not be entrusted merely to professional, certified, salaried workers. It must be entrusted *to all of God’s people* who are to be equipped to understand, teach, live, and share it. The most important school for developing discipleship is the Christian home and family circle.
8. God’s people today need to be aware of some important omissions in the Ecumenical Creeds (Apostles’, Nicene, Athanasian). None makes reference to:
  - God as Maker and OWNER: There is no such thing as Christian *giving*—only *managing*.
  - Jesus as SERVANT-MESSIAH: He is to be the model for all that we think, say, and do.
  - The existence of the SATANIC spirit: We are led by either the *Holy Spirit* or the *Satanic Spirit*.

When God’s people understand the significance of these truths, they will embrace their implications for daily life as *tenants* (people whose body God made and owns) on *God’s property*, Planet Earth.

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