

## H0011 Hoeh 2-15-92 Statements of Belief 1 USSR

I want to thank the participants in the corral.

I of course always think of their presentation when going to the editorial office in the morning.

I see at least two of them.

I'm not sure that I could tell whether we have more or not in our editorial department.

It's a very nice presentation that we are given by the group.

I would like to make a comment on what Mr. Washington discussed.

I'm sure most of you are aware, but we do have to give consideration to some of these long-term difficulties.

The amount of rain that falls here is a great help in terms of the maintenance of the groundwater for gardening, trees, our own properties, but what the city of Los Angeles or more broadly speaking the greater area, not specifically just downtown L.A., I mean this is a huge basin linked to Los Angeles.

We often fail to think of how extensive the San Fernando Valley is as another part of L.A.

That area, as distinct for instance from Pasadena, is dependent on stored water elsewhere.

Stored water generally means snowpack.

Our problem is that the snowpack is not yet adequately building up until the second half of the recent rain which is coming to a close.

Our snowpack for the greater Los Angeles area was still only 60% of normal in terms of the available water either in storage or as snow because it does melt.

So it means that the drought is not yet over.

That has nothing to do with what the soil is like down here.

But what comes through the pipes? What comes to the private home? What comes to industry, commerce? All that is essentially dependent on areas in the Sierra Nevada as well as the Colorado River and the primary is of course the Sierra Nevadas.

The drought could be broken if for example we had the possibility of a significant increase in snow.

I draw attention to the tremendous rains that took place in 1978 and 79 in Southern California.

And at that time enough snow fell and we asked one of our members now deceased who used to attend here who was in fact responsible for a private property of some one of financial means in the Sierra Nevadas, Mr. Redifer as many of you will remember him.

He said by 1980 the amount of snow and stored water if we had no further rains would enable the region to survive till 1985.

There was a tremendous amount of snowpack and flow of water into the lakes.

But that's passed.

Then we had some adequate rainfall but this is now the fifth year of drought and we can only look back on that time of unusual storage.

We do not have it now.

I'd like to take a little time since the sermon this morning is an open ended one which I can terminate at any point as you will discover.

The reason of course is I'm going to deal with the statements of belief and if we only get to the first one that's alright.

It's the prelude to it that will be the important part.

I think that there are a number of things I would like to draw to your attention and that is that we do need to concern ourselves for the welfare of brethren who live all through California.

Santa Barbara for example has had the drought broken but they are dependent not on any stored water away from their area.

They are dependent absolutely on local water.

The number of the other cities of Southern California are.

So we have both long range and local needs that should be met and you will know if we have some heavy storms that strike northern and central California whether the drought will in fact be broken.

It's doubtful that since we are already half through February we can formally say that the drought is broken but what has happened is that we have returned to a point where instead of having the equivalent of the fifth year of drought we are probably back to a point that we might say it's maybe the third year of drought.

If you were to look back on what we now can anticipate for the future.

Some of you may be aware of a particular channel on television I would like to bring to your attention.

We are able where we live to get television only through cable because we live at the foot of the San Gabriel mountains when you go through the foothill communities.

Other than that we used to get a haze on the screen and we never really had cable until the 1980s so we have never really seen television as it was in the 70s, 60s and 50s.

On our system there is a channel and I won't bother with the number because that will vary our system does not have the same channel number on the TV set that it would have as listed in newspapers but it is C-span.

C-span is an unusual channel not because most of it is interesting but because some things are interesting.

I would draw your attention to the fact that they do present at different times of the day I presume at least there is a time when they present Radio Moscow in English.

The entire presentation of Radio Moscow on television I should say perhaps we used to think of it as Radio Moscow but Moscow television the supervised and under the direction of Novosti Novosti is the internal radio television organization.

My wife Victor Kubik and I had a chance to visit with one of the staff members of Novosti when we were in the Soviet Union in 1967 and we exchanged some correspondence after that in response to the series of articles prepared in the plain truth late 67, early 68 about the unfinished revolution and in criticism to one of our articles I pointed up that we are not beholden to let's say either the government or to business and we are free to speak the truth as it is and one of the representatives of Novosti wrote back a marvelous letter this was all done in English a copy of which I still have and this gentleman is of Tandy who's a Georgian and I found out last year he's still with Novosti and he said that though he would have to disagree with our perspectives on the Soviet Union though he might not have disagreed with our perspectives on the US and its problems he said nevertheless I wish you every success in all your endeavors which was a very interesting statement that I have much appreciated I would say it wasn't a prayer but at least it was a very nice thought that has been fulfilled we are able to do what the church must do but what has happened in the Soviet Union is a clear indication of what we foresaw at that time as an area that needed ultimately to be addressed although it got much worse but if you would like to know what is on Moscow television it is in translation you do not hear the original language unless you are you read lips you hear the English translation which just flows right along exceptionally well done the recent presentation covered events and the civil strife in Georgia the near famine and a very significant lack of fuel in Armenia the region of Abkhazia in Georgia the region of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan and the conflict there the problems in Peru with actual street scenes of the Maoists now in the city of Lima preventing ordinary commerce from occurring the recent a recent tragedy in Guatemala the problems in many areas of the world are all given the bulk of which you will not find even on CNN which leads me to have you realize that probably the most effective television in terms of world news is CNN in the English language but both the British and in this case Moscow television cover far more of the world's problems than our commercially oriented interests allow in this country if you really want to know what is occurring you have to have radio or television linked in some way to the international market and not merely to the American market then you will understand some of the world's serious problems newspapers not all but some of them do a commendable job usually the Sunday edition but I would suggest that we should give some more serious thought to concerns of that nature now this leads me to a matter that I would like to draw to your attention but the church has in the last few years with the growth of our impact on television in Europe not chosen publicly to address various aspects of prophecy that we were perhaps freer to address in earlier decades but the closer we get to having an impact on the European continent the more we need to be discreet at what is done and of course there are those who had the background that Mr. Armstrong did of the earlier part of the century and there are others today those of us who went through Ambassador College who've had the background of the middle part of this century what I draw to your attention is that the last major article is distinct from personals that appeared in the plain truth in 1985 which Mr. Armstrong wrote I owe this to Richard Sedliac who was in the corral was a shall we call it an edited edition of yet earlier article but this one appeared in May 1985 on why Russia will not attack the United States with a picture of Gorbachev and Reagan looking at each other on the cover the policy of this work has been to analyze world events in terms of Bible prophecy the depth at which one understands Bible prophecy necessarily differs in any case Mr. Armstrong was not incorrect when he foresaw that despite decades of the Cold War it would never get beyond that point even though numerous individuals presumed it might and some were absolutely assured that it would on the basis of their misinterpretation of the Bible or misunderstanding of events on the world scene it was in August that we planned an article which was written by Keith Stump completed the end of August early September before the festivals the editing process and the developing of the magazine therefore occurred from October to the beginning of November was printed at the press in November and came out the 1st of December I tell you that so that you know that it takes a little while to develop

the magazine and of course and a magazine that comes out in the beginning of December 1985 is the January 1986 issue now what is important is that 1985 was the year in which Gorbachev came to be responsible for the events for the internal politics for the economy every aspect of the Soviet Union which was a super government over republics now remember the United States is a union of states which states had a war in the last century to determine whether a state could leave a union the union of soviet socialist republics was not a union of states it was a union of republics the american said that the Soviet Union would never allow any of the republics to leave the union any more than this government in washington allowed the states to leave the american union we were regularly assured it was not so but we did not want to pay very much attention as a nation to the nature of a union of republics as distinct from a union of states we assumed that the super government centered in Moscow had the same jurisdiction that the federal government of the United States does we should recognize that the government of the United States is a federal government the government of the Soviet Union was a supreme government held together by a party but it was a government made up of representatives not only of republics controlled by the party but even autonomous units within republics and so it should not have surprised anyone who understood the structure what ultimately happened nevertheless i would like to draw your attention what this work foresaw in the summer of 1985 when we decided an article needed to be written to analyze what was likely to happen in eastern europe for that matter central europe which appeared on the newsstands in december 1985 some month and a half before Mr Armstrong's disease it is entitled the soviet economic crisis prelude to united europe which is to say that it is taking a look at the events that must come before a union in europe is possible mr stump who does assist in writing in the development of scripts and in other aspects of television pointed up the soviet economy is in trouble the political and prophetic consequences are major now for those who haven't read the magazine some of you perhaps are even more recent than december 1985 that's six full years ago perhaps this would be sufficient back copies usually aren't available except in the library it speaks about a seriously sick soviet economy in moscow the feeling is growing the Soviet Union is rapidly nearing a turning point soviet economists are warning that major adjustments will have to be made on the whole system or the whole system will be seriously threatened now this was known of course uh earlier in the decade there were warnings and gorbachev was the man who was in fact asked to help solve the problem a severe soviet economic crisis could have major consequence for the communist bloc countries in eastern europe the face of the european continent could be radically transformed as a result the european balance of power structure would be shattered laying the groundwork for a new europe and the fulfillment of major bible prophecies that is the source of the problem was not the military the source of the problem was not fundamentally agriculture that was an ongoing chronic illness the source of the problem was in fact the economy of the Soviet Union for whereas the United States could borrow money on the world scene because we were a part of the world economy the soviet union was not a part of the world's economy essentially only traded within the bloc and had no capacity to borrow and simply lived off the fact of the people of eastern europe and the republics within the Soviet Union the naughty dilemma facing the soviet leadership is how to remedy the state of affairs without compromising basic communist principles and ideals that was how gorbachev himself looked at it more worsen to kremlin planners or the potential wide-ranging political repercussions major consequences lie in store for eastern europe i'm just picking tiny phrases out of this highly placed observers believe the growing crisis in the Soviet Union might one day soon persuade the soviet political leadership that it can no longer afford the luxury of maintaining satellites in europe that is Poland Czechoslovakia Hungary Romania Bulgaria East Germany they foresee a time when economic pressures may force the kremlin to cut loose the cumbersome weight of its western flank lest the Soviet Union itself go under economically in the sea of red ink we said and i told the ministers in one of the sessions of the refreshing program that it has

been clearly demonstrated that no country in eastern Europe by itself militarily can break i would say can at that time the hold of the Soviet Union the Soviet Union made it impossible for any country of the satellites militarily to break away the Germans tried it in 53 the Hungarians in 56 the Poles off and on the checks in 68 the Prague Spring and none of those countries could succeed the Soviet Union had military stranglehold the problem was the Soviet Union was soon to be strangled by its own economic folly that is the system doesn't work eastern European satellites therefore may soon find themselves dumped by a desperate Kremlin struggling for economic survival this is on these are on pages 13 and 14 the resulting political vacuum might then be filled by a new entity an association of east and west European nations in a new era of all European cooperation that's all hyphen European the countries of eastern Europe would become free to exercise their right of self-determination and seek to associate themselves with an evolving west European union this would effectively end the political division of the continent that has prevailed since 1945 even the long delayed reunion of a divided Germany might be achieved within such a framework in general European reunification as it turned out the United States encouraged the Germans to proceed even before a general European reunification these events would in short create the circumstances necessary for what we have foreseen for a long time a revival of a new imperial concept in Europe a confederation or a form of the one example that Austria-Hapsburg has of course brought to Europeans attention the Holy Roman Empire thus it's probable that the coming reconstituted Roman Empire will also be composed of two distinct yet cooperative parts one comprising nations of western Europe the other incorporating nations released from Soviet domination in eastern Europe religion is also destined to play a major role in loosening as it of course did the Soviet grip starting with Poland in eastern Europe an inspiring enthusiasm for European unity that enthusiasm has yet to be developed in the west and is more in fact widely accepted in the east i think it is important when people say did we foresee what was going to happen the answer is we foresaw clearly not only what has not yet happened but that it would be the economic problem that the Soviet Union would have to come to grips with and which it did not come to grips with when this was published we received one or two formal letters in English that were published in English language newspapers or magazines i do not know which at the moment in the Soviet Union and were sent them in which they charged that we were maligning the actual economic situation in the Soviet Union well of course we knew what the economic situation was in terms of what had been published the Soviet Union was not prepared to acknowledge it formally in a public manner but interestingly they took us as a magazine serious enough to answer the article as they might have done Time or Newsweek i think that should be born in mind as it turned out the economic crisis was indeed what was foreseen and from January let's go back to December from December 1985 when it came out to December 1989 in four years the whole of eastern Europe was shattered in four years it began to crumble in the late summer and autumn and by the beginning of winter in fact the Soviet system west of the Soviet Union had collapsed what remained therefore was a question it was a question of what would happen to the system inside the Soviet Union Gorbachev tried his best and linked his future with the concept that a super government over the republics could survive the crisis as it turned out the problem was more severe even than he estimated and he was in charge and he was the man who made a study of the union it turned out that he could not hold it together the republics however have not assumed that they should go their separate way and there is no way to look at Ezekiel 38 and 39 as other than republics in cooperation but they are nevertheless now republics where the level of government resides with the republic and it has a form of a commonwealth or a general union now what they will ultimately come up with a union of independent states i should say a commonwealth of independent states is a way in which it has been translated in which case the word state equals republic rather than the word state within the United States there are two forms of the word state there is the state of Israel like the states within the Soviet confederation today or commonwealth then there is the state of California a

state in a union as california is not equivalent to a state of israel as a nation you should know the distinct usage of those terms what we did foresee is very clearly made plain in this article and that is that the crisis was not a crisis other than economic and that was the center of it i pointed up that the soviet mistake i think this was sometime later the soviet mistake was that they had gotten involved in afghanistan as we had gotten involved in vietnam and whereas we were able economically militarily to extricate ourselves the Soviet Union was able militarily but not economically to extricate itself you see communism has no way to evaluate what it costs to produce a box of apples because there is no marketplace my wife and i found that the entire pricing structure within the Soviet Union was patterned after the United States if they had not had a capitalistic standard and they chose the United States it would have been impossible for them even to put adequate prices on what was being produced now you would say well wouldn't they normally be equivalent the answer is no some countries produce things cheaper than other things some countries will like denmark have much much cheaper prices for dairy products in denmark than it would have for oranges but it was interesting that the soviet system was so parallel to the United States well we didn't have to ask why the russians themselves said they used us as a guideline because there was nothing in the system that would tell them what the actual price should be on the basis of what the different collective farms or state farms should charge for their goods it was all centrally decided now the problem today is not that the soviets couldn't be producing food couldn't be producing other goods but once the central system collapsed and there is no central government and you only have the confederated states or republics there is nobody at the top that can command what you should do after all if you were on a state farm in the ukraine where are you going to market your goods who in Moscow there's nobody there tells you that some of your produce needs to go to Siberia they don't have businesses in Siberia saying we'd like to buy your goods the whole distribution structure has collapsed there's no way to get a railroad car from russia through the well not don't have to go through the ukraine you can stay in russia going on the east side through the caucuses to armenia if there's only one track coming into armenia through azerbaijan and the azerbaijanis or azeris cut it off why then the trains in armenia stay there and the trains outside stay there and there's no movement imagine what the system is if that was a way your system operated in your body that's why there is potential starvation as well as hunger in scattered areas especially in the caucuses which is mountainous and filled with people who can't get along with each other a civil war in one country a war in another republic and confusion within some of the independent or not independent but autonomous regions within each of the republics that i refer to uh that's the problem the command economy had collapsed how long it will take them to put it together i have stated that advisors to the federal government of the United States foresee that the germans can get east Germany back into shape by the middle of this decade the rest of what represented eastern europe west of the Soviet Union as it was by the end of this decade let's use the term 2000 not all at the equal level hungary surely will be ahead of romania and it will take upwards of another decade let's say in round figures 2010 because the Soviet Union as it was and now the common wealth of independent states is so vast a region to have to build a transportation infrastructure to have to build an economic market so you can in fact encourage investment to build up mother or as we used to say mom and pop stores or local businesses so that you can import or export from regions all of that has to start i don't you know we think living here that if you wanted a two by four piece of lumber uh let's say 12 feet long that you could go downtown to a lumberyard and buy one the answer is in the Soviet Union you need to get a log and how are you going to cut it well that's why they live like they do there is nobody running a lumberyard in the Soviet Union unless somebody has done it in the last year or so because to run a lumberyard would make you a capitalist you would be exploiting your employees you would be brought to trial and sent to ciberia now you have to go to ciberia to get the lumber that's the system the only people in the soviet system as it was who could be privately in business

were simply husband and wife teams they allowed that like armenians who had restaurants outside of Armenia we happened to know a couple who had a restaurant in Moscow and moved into this area now you understand why communists said i wish or they say we wish we had tried the experiment in a place like switzerland small enough that the damage would be minimal they tried it in an area one sixth of the whole earth's surface and it's collapsed now remember a country the size of britain a country the size of france in Germany can relatively easily put together its environment and make a society work mountains rivers valleys lakes streams whatever you think of as nature the United States could never have arisen to great power in the 19th century France and britain Germany for that matter italy these were countries who could easily arise to great power in the 19th century in fact some had risen before but the United States could never have become a great power until the 20th century because we were too big the infrastructure between the infrastructure between the coasts was simply too great and until we had thoroughly built that infrastructure of transportation and in fact not until we even had airways were we able to begin to dominate the world the Soviet Union did not dominate as we did they only occupied a certain region and built walls around it but we could dominate the rest of the world the Soviet Union is tried to be a superpower and they finally put in a reverse track they had for a long time only one track crossing Siberia built by the tsars and only in the last two or so decades did they put a second track can you imagine are having only two railroad lines between canada and mexico running east and west and originally only having one well the reason the Soviet Union built so many weapons is that their country could have been demolished by us if they hadn't done so because their infrastructure was not prepared to compete let us therefore lay aside the idea that we could not have foreseen what was coming if any have thought that was the case because the church may not be addressing the issue now does not mean we did not address it before or address it correctly but today the church has other priorities the church has other priorities because we are in a world rather different than let's say the 1930s when this work began we could buy time on radio and religion on radio let's say wasn't the same thing as religion on radio is today religion then had a much stronger hold on the average person it wasn't even nice if you please to consider a group keeping the Sabbath day in terms of employment as late as the 1950s enemies of the school systems in the United States with the parents of children parents of the Worldwide Church of God of god because you took your children out of school to go to the festival there was a time that we would never have thought of addressing the Sabbath in a public manner either in our new magazine or on radio except obliquely but times have changed one of the closest friends of school systems in most states and finally also in texas are the parents of children whose parents are in the Worldwide Church of God of god because they cooperate with teachers and their children don't bring guns and knives and other weapons to school and they see that the children keep up with responsibilities it is now possible to have the supreme court recognize that a church member a christian not a jew keeping the Sabbath as as much right as a muslim friday or a christian on sunday yet at the same time we have to recognize that the world of religion though it is now held in disdain by many in the secular world nevertheless has a powerful influence in various media publishing in universities we are the subject we are the subject as well as Mormons or other groups buddhist catholics you name it of studies held at the undergraduate more often the graduate levels the idea of studying religion like you study the various isms of the world is now not new because as religion has declined in its moral effectiveness in politics and in the morality of the nation it has come to more and more prominence in the academic world we have buddhist friends who wanted to find out what others said of us and one of them went to one of the schools in the san francisco bay region to see how we were presented now if the church of god had a flaw in before 1979 of a major that had a major impact it was this the church allowed many of its members to be in ignorance of the work of the church worldwide and where monies were spent and why and today if the church has a flaw of some significant impact it is this that we have not adequately explained to you why we are

addressing such things as statements of beliefs not for the Worldwide Church of God of god membership but for the religious world at large that wants to examine us as it does other institutions and because we do not word it for the farmer or shall we call the rest of you the middle class this wonderful political group that votes is distinct from the poor who are no longer being considered because they don't vote so much well the answer is we are in need of making clear and that is the responsibility of the ministry to make clear why in addressing such things as are stated in the statement of beliefs of the Worldwide Church of God of god we are addressing ourselves to such beliefs in the form of a piece of literature that we can mail out to radio or television stations that we can mail out to newsmen who will publish in magazines or newspapers or that can be handed out in a class either undergraduate or graduate at any university or theological institution and it will use terminology that those people use and they will not be confused by what they read even if you are because what they used to read that didn't confuse you is what confused them to the point that they said we didn't even believe in the Holy Spirit well let's not confuse them and the ministry's responsibility is to help you understand why theologians use the terms they do all of you should have received a copy if not you certainly could ask for it it should have been mailed to every head of household i presume it's something like that introduction the Worldwide Church of God of god with its administrative head sorry administrative center in pasadena california has members in 120 countries and territories now the purpose is to give the name of the church where the administrative center is worldwide and we use an appropriate term administrative center we define the general breadth and scope of the work the mission of the church is to proclaim the gospel of jesus christ without making an argument over what the gospel is in the second sentence now there are church members some of whom have left who said if you didn't define the gospel in the second sentence you've abandoned the teaching of the church now i happen to have been one who was involved in the construction of every word of this booklet mr decott made the final decision in terms of any area and it was an agreed upon work which included the late Mr Harrell Jackson who was in most all meetings so was i but we weren't always in everyone but we all went over the material Mr Lee Roinef various individuals representing church administration who i don't have to name national and international those who are involved at the highest level in television editorial and the media with no priority being given to any one area in other words there's a group that generally represented anywhere from 10 to 15 individuals in addition to the fact that we had a telephone hookup with the primary administration and theological faculty members of big sandy ambassador college so that we could say we probably off and on have had upwards of 15 to 20 people who have regularly put their minds to this over a period of many months the end result was a general work of art shall we call it in its formation in which we could all agree that this represented the best way in which to use the english language to reach people who want to write about us from their perspective and we don't want to confuse them with any terminology that we got used to to which arose from the advertising field which arose from having a magazine or a radio program where you talk to people your written language is not necessarily how you talk either the mission of the church is to proclaim the gospel of jesus christ around the world and to help members grow spiritually matthew 28 19 to 20 there's your source as a spirit led body of believers the church is exhorted grow and grace the grace and knowledge of our lord and savior jesus christ second peter 3:18 the spirit of god leads the church into all truth john 16:13 accordingly this statement of beliefs does not constitute a closed creed so not everything is in it therefore it could not be a closed creed so you believe so that i believe so the church teaches more than is in here well you know we tried to summarize it we could have something as thick as this a statement of beliefs the bible instead of that we have something that can at least be used in a classroom situation or that men and women who want to write about us locally at the festival can see what we teach something which if somebody was lazy enough pardon me and only wanted to copy what we said would be nicely written so this statement does not constitute a

closed creed the church constantly renews its commitment to truth and deeper understanding and responds to god's guidance in its beliefs and practices in the structure you will remember we have certain subheads which i will read just by way of background but below them will be a summary below the summary will be a series of chapter and verses that highlight or show where such beliefs may be perceived you will notice carefully as you look through these that the verses are of course always separated from the contents above this is important for the reason that most people who write don't want to put in parentheses at the close of the sentence before the period the source of our beliefs that's not how editors do things now this was not a perfect work and we would have i think several of us have agreed that when you look at the final pages the way they came out we would have reversed the process and the arrangement on one page but i'll comment on that the subjects that we decided needed to be in here were god jesus christ the holy spirit you'll note we did not have god god the father jesus christ the son and the holy spirit we had only three topics we simply chose to do it that way then holy the holy scriptures the angelic realm and more specifically satan man salvation and grace then on a separate page following that were justification sorry were sanctification justification and conversion it is our general perspective that we should have reversed that and sanctification should have been the last conversion justification and sanctification would have been perhaps a better order that was simply some things that you see later in terms of logic then we linked together that was one aspect looking at the subject of grace then the other repentance water baptism and the church and church leadership then the individual christian then the subject of the gospel prophecy the law the Sabbath the festivals tithing then doctrine the second coming the millennium the inheritance of the believer the fate of the unrepentant and summarizing the whole thing the kingdom of god now there are two ways to study this in addition to the obvious the obvious is to read it think about it look up the verses and put them together in addition what you ought to have I chose not to in the rain to bring another bible here but the time that I covered this in the Pasadena East pm congregation I had another translation I take a standard translation the authorized version is always okay the new king James nicely modernizes it I'd suggest that you also have in addition another modern version other than the one you regularly use and it would be good for the new testament also to have a good modern catholic translation remember the largest group of christians in the world are catholic and it's good to know how they translate it good trans a good catholic translation that's modern you can have an older one but it's the the new american bible the new american bible is a good translation you might have the confraternity but then you might take the niv if you use the new king james I would recommend any different one the new king james the new international version there is the rather older but very useful uh revised standard but there's now the new revised standard version which doesn't have sexist terms anymore unlike what we left in here at one place we may want to edit that less women in the church would leave the church but we felt that mankind included women if you wonder whether you are man or not I don't follow darwin in this god gave his revelation to mankind there are a group of people who feel we must use to humans or humanity will think about that we simply didn't choose to introduce this particular addition by taking the latest trend in reorganizing the english language you should use the new revised standard if you have it you ought to become acquainted with the revised english bible which is in many ways superior to the new english bible which is very radical but I think it's a good translation the new one is a good translation uh even the good news bible or the today's english or whatever that is called the american bible society publishes it the point that I would like to make is you can become familiar with terminology and then get a shock if you read it in some other form not realizing that perhaps both versions say the same thing and you read a rather narrow meaning into the version you were reading so it's good to have a something different now you don't have to spend significant sums of money go to a used uh bookstore for instance we have within walking distance this direction the salvation army which has used bibles you can't get them cheaper than places like

that or the burbank mall the golden mall in burbank which has uh at book castle for example where you can simply get uh used bibles very inexpensively not always the latest additions but some of them are people bring them in uh you can get them any number of other places so you don't have to spend much money but it would be good to try something different that means that you are awakened to another way of wording it and you will find in general that the translations are not basically the problem I don't think any versification that we have here was based on an argument over what the verse should say if we differ from others it is because others have inherited a different tradition that's all let me then focus on one point that is very important I told you that it would be open-ended I suspected I would get through the first one and that's what it will be but Mr Washington is here and uh that leaves of course a full sermon for him on the same topic god that's the first subject god by the testimony of scripture how do we know god by the testimony of scripture is the only true god and father of all eternal immutable omnipotent omniscient omnipresent so we use the term god here in the sense that it represents the only true god and father of all and any question that is broader than this in terms of the usage of the word god may be found under the last one which says the kingdom of god in the broadest sense is god's supreme sovereignty the kingdom of god in the broadest sense is god's supreme sovereignty that is the overruling god that is the kingdom now the family of god we start out by defining one who is called the only true god and father of all in the sense that even jesus said i return to as he said after he was born a mary in the resurrection to my father and your father my god and your god an interesting usage later that was not the usage that might have been extant in old testament times the nature shows god to be and then we have such words as i read to you eternal immutable omnipresent omniscient omnipotent and if you have any question the other book that you should have beside well the other book beside the two bibles would be a dictionary i happen to have chosen one that somebody threw out generally speaking it doesn't matter the meaning is the same whether you pay for it or not i'm trying to set you an example of saving money my wife's only contribution was to put soft paper in between because when i found that it was wet and uh now it's all very nice it was made up of soft paper and not shiny paper or it would have been useless because then the pages would have stuck he is creator of heaven and earth sustainer of the universe and source of man's salvation so we see him as creator sustainer and savior in terms of broadly speaking and here even our hindu friends would not disagree except they would have many gods and then the three one who was creator one sustainer and they would have one who was the destroyer but they would see that one pertained to salvation we have chosen those specific things that highlight issues raised in theology god is love and infinite goodness both words love and good are addressed in the new testament the church affirms the oneness of god without defining oneness here to say that all of us would have agreed on oneness would be untrue because the church in itself would say that the full meaning of oneness is not comprehensible in its entirety by mortal mind there are different aspects of oneness but the oneness of god is affirmed by the church and what that oneness is is up to you to examine in scripture jesus said my father and i are one do not forget that what did he mean the church has spoken in many ways but that isn't the only sense of oneness jesus said god is spirit by one spirit are we all baptized not by many spirits all right the church affirms the oneness of god and the full divinity of the father comma the sun comma and the holy spirit the church affirms the full divinity of the father the church affirms the full divinity of the son the church affirms the full divinity of the holy spirit the question of divinity necessarily may arise and so i deliberately brought this to read it to you because this is what the church has always taught except the church has never used this language because the church assumed incorrectly that the term divinity means a deity now let me read it carefully for you there are different ways of defining it this happens to be a simple one divinity the quality or state of being divine colon godhead i don't like that word but that's theologians do but it simply means the quality or state of being divine another meaning is a divine being but the first and primary meaning is the

quality or state of being divine so now i look up divine of or relating to or proceeding directly from deity does the holy spirit relate to or proceed directly from deity the answer of course is yes and if so then we clearly affirm the divinity of the holy spirit the question of personality or personage is not the issue in the terminology therefore when people used to say that we deny the holy spirit they said so on the basis of the fact that we despite having quoted it that that is Matthew 28 19 you know the story of Jesus commissioned to the church in baptism it's very important to realize that we have here carefully chosen to point up the holy spirit is not just some energy or mind or thought but that the holy spirit being divine spirit not angelic spirit proceeds from deity and therefore has the characteristic of divinity these are appropriate words these are proper words and i suggest therefore in any future study which you should do i don't know how extensive any of you have looked at it but i think it would pay you carefully to examine some will be straightforward uh essentially no problem in terminology but this one will be because we should understand that in a language there is often one word with more than one meaning and there may be even a word that sounds like another word for instance you know what the word divine is and then there are reverends who are called divine those are people clergymen so we have the same root word but it's entirely different sense divine is an adjective or divine is a noun the root may be the same in that case but there can even be sounds as you know in english uh that go back to totally different sources and mean two different and unrelated things but we've been very careful about this in going through it and apart from a little reorganization in terms of logic i think it is the best presentation certainly it has the quality and character that we would be very pleased to see the basis of any discussion in any theological institution or anybody who wants to write on cults or who wants to contact television and or radio stations magazines or whatever or who give public lectures or people who write about us this was given to you it was written for others it would be the way you should have worded it in general if you were to explain it to others who have a responsibility that i described you can use additional terms carefully in explaining it to people who are not always familiar with these terms that's the role of the ministry as a whole uh and i believe that from time to time we should exercise that opportunity here and uh go through a number of the others and understand the importance of this contribution at this time when we are in a world quite different from that generation when the first statement of beliefs was drawn up in the 1930s and revised in the 1950s most of you never saw it anyway because that was generally for private distribution but we are so much more now a public uh institution as seen from the outside that we needed something very shall we say formally and accurately presented i will also end the thought here that this perhaps could be seen in addition to the work of the church as a memorial of the one meeting in which Mr. Harold Jackson regularly attended every thursday afternoon and we appreciate the work that he did with the team while he lived among us you