

# THE DISPENSATIONS

By Earlene Davis

## Introduction

To understand the dispensations is very important that we may be able to rightly divide the Word of God. The word dispensations comes from a compound Greek word which together means “**law of the house**” or “**law of arrangement,**” or “**to set things in order.**” It is someone who has the management of a household, not the owner, but manager, to administer the affairs of another. It is rendered 5 times as “**steward**” or “**stewardship**” Lk. 12 & 16.

The word “dispensations” is found 4 times: I Cor. 9:17; Eph. 1:10; Eph. 3:2; and Col. 1:25. In I Cor. 9:16-19 Paul speaks of the stewardship of the gospel which was laid upon him. If I do it willingly I have a reward. Paul didn’t charge the people, for God was going to be his reward and it would come at a different time; I have made myself servant unto all to gain them for the Lord. God placed Paul as **a steward** of this house, **the Church Age** or dispensation. More than one person are stewards in this Church Age. Read Gal. 6:10.

Col. 1:24-27: In Paul’s stewardship he filled-up the Word of God. This caused affliction in his life, he **poured out his life daily** for this gospel (I Cor. 15:31). He did this as a good steward before the Lord. God revealed to Paul **a mystery that had been hid from ages and generations.** The word “ages” has the thought of a period of time marked out. The Greek “generations” means, to be born or brought into existence. So these generations are a period of time that God dealt with certain classes of people. When we talk about generations, we are talking about **people,** about **ages,** about **time.** In past time all these things were hidden, but now they are all brought out in the open and given to us. We have riches, we have Christ in us, the hope of glory. We can rejoice in what God has done for us and doing in us.

Eph. 3:1-8: Paul calls this Church Age the dispensation of the Grace of God. In every Age, God manifested His grace, even in the Law Age. But in this particular Age, God has manifest His grace **more** than any other time, because Jesus is the grace of God that appeared unto all men. – Titus 2:11-12. When we receive Him we receive the grace of God. It is in us and lives in us and becomes a part of our being. This grace of God **changes** our life to deny ungodliness and worldly lust and live honestly and soberly in this present age. Paul received this dispensation of the grace of God by revelation, “that the Gentiles should be fellowheirs and of the same body and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel” (Eph. 3:6).

Jew and Gentile have been made one in Christ during this Age. Peter, James and John had not known this message of grace, it was especially given unto Paul. Jesus came unto His own, He ministered to the Jews. The Gentiles had a lesser place at that time. In Romans 15:16, Paul called himself the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.

In Eph. 1:10 we read of the dispensation of the fulness of times. Times is plural, more than one time. The Greek word for times refers to previous durations. When the fulness of all these times were come, there will be no more time, time will be full. Before God created anything, there was eternity, there was no such thing as time. Time has to do with rotation. Time is a big parenthesis in eternity. What is God doing in the dispensation of the fulness of times? “Gather together in one all things in Christ.” All believer from Adam until that time gathered together in one, both which are in heaven, and on earth, even in him. In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: that we should be to the praise of his glory. God is going to have a people like Him, a New Creation that was predestined before the foundation of the world.

God has divided time into **seven dispensations** or ages. In each of these periods of time God tested man in a different way. God also revealed Himself in a different way in each one. In every dispensation man failed and each one ends in judgment. Five dispensations are past, one is present, and one is future.

**PAST:** The Age of Innocence – Gen. 2 & 3  
The Age of Conscience – Gen. 4-7  
The Age of Human Government – Gen. 8-11  
The Age of Promise – Gen. 12 to Ex. 20  
The Age of Law – Ex. 20 to the Cross

**PRESENT:** The Age of Grace – the Cross to Christ’s second coming

**FUTURE:** The Kingdom Age – second coming to eternity

## **First Dispensation: The Age of Innocence**

This age began in the Garden of Eden, and ended with the fall. It is also called **Paradise**, because that is what the garden of Eden was. During this time God kept Adam and Eve for their faithfulness and obedience to Him.

Gen. 1:26, “...God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion...”. The triune God had a purpose and it went far beyond the garden Eden. We don’t see this at first when we read Genesis, but God purposed a **New**

**Creation.** He wanted man to have dominion, that still has to come to pass. We read in verses 26 through 28 that God gave man dominion over everything. He was to **rule** over all God's creation.

Gen. 2:8-9, "...The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil." God placed Adam in the garden to dress it and to keep it (2:15).

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (2:16-17). This was the **stewardship of Adam**. He had a responsibility to **rule** over creation, to **keep** the garden and to **obey** God. God tested man (the natural man) as to his ability to obey.

God made the woman (2:22). "And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed (for they were not put to shame – 2:25)." They didn't even realize they were naked. There was no condition of sin in their life, no guilt. Adam and Eve were created sinless, but not holy. If they had been holy, they couldn't have sinned. They were **innocent**, subject to sin. Of course God knew that, but He wanted **them to find out**. God wanted this on record before ALL humanity: that the natural man, even under the best of circumstances, is not able to obey God. Adam had everything he could want, didn't have to work, just dress the garden a bit, nothing to worry about. Above all this they were innocent, didn't know sin. They didn't know there was good and evil. They were like children in their understanding and dealings with one another. But the serpent came on the scene

The serpent spoke to Eve (not Adam). He simply asked her a **question**. "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (3:1). This is Satan's way, he asks questions. He gets people to doubt God. He caused Eve to begin to doubt the goodness of God. When Eve answered, she **added** to what God had said. "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." God didn't say anything about touching it. "And the serpent said unto the woman. Ye shall not surely die" (3:4). The serpent **took away** from what God said (See Deut. 12:32 & Jn. 8:44). The woman should have referred the serpent to her husband. God really never spoke to Eve concerning the tree, He told Adam (2:16).

I Timothy 2:14 sounds like Adam deliberately took of this fruit, for "Adam was not deceived." I believe he loved Eve so much and didn't want to be separated from her. He knew she was going to die, because God said they would if they ate of that tree. This is a

beautiful picture of Calvary. This is what Jesus did. He was **willing** to be separated from His Father and take upon Him our sin, deliberately, to be **identified with us**. That is what Adam did. Adam lost his stewardship in doing this.

Have you ever wondered how long they were in the garden before they disobeyed? I don't think it was very long. Through all these dispensations, Satan had his part in trying to defeat God's purposes. He used to be Lucifer and fell from his place and became an enemy of God. He tries to defeat all of God's purposes. When God created such a wonderful innocent sinless man, Satan tried to destroy that. Gen. 3:6, they ate of the forbidden tree. What was so bad about that? **They disobeyed God**. Isn't that how human nature is, you tell the natural man not to do something and that is exactly what he wants to do. It shows up at a very early age. In every dispensation, it didn't matter how God dealt with men, they failed God. They were not able to do what God wanted them to do.

When Adam and Eve fell, **all** the human race fell. Their sin was passed on to the next generation and from there on down. Sinful parents cannot give birth to children without sin. Verses 11 through 13 of Genesis 3 tell of man's disobedient spirit as the result of the fall. With every failure of man in these dispensations, there came a judgement. God judged the **serpent, Eve, and Adam**. First He judged the **serpent** (3:14). This judgement will not be lifted even in the Kingdom Age, the last dispensation (Isa. 65:25). When man sinned and rebelled, all God's creation rebelled, the animals were no longer tame, but wild. In the Kingdom Age, when righteousness comes to this earth, all other animals will be released, there won't be any ferocious beasts (Rom. 8:18-23 & Isa. 11:6-9). But the serpents will still be on their belly and eat dust.

The judgement upon the **woman** was concerning pain in child birth and the man would rule over her (3:16). Compare I Tim. 2:15. The judgment of **Adam** was concerning food. Because he ate of that tree, the ground would not produce the food it should produce. When man lost dominion, the earth rebelled and brought forth thorns, thistles, and weeds. God told Adam that until he died, he will make his living by the sweat of his face (3:17-19). This will be lifted during the Kingdom Age. Man won't have to work hard, all the land will be tillable and produce abundantly. In their judgment, Adam and Eve were barred from the garden (3:22-24). This was **God's grace** that they would not eat of the tree of life and live forever in sin.

Even today man tries to get away from his failure. He just denies everything God has said by his actions and attitudes. But man was plunged into darkness and without hope. God was not taken unawares. Man's need provided the opportunity for God to **manifest His grace** which He purposed in Christ before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1). God purposed a creation which would be holy. God gave Adam and Eve a word of prophecy, a light, a hope, a **Deliverer** was coming (3:15). God also clothed them with the skins of

slain animals. He was teaching them that a **blood sacrifice was necessary** for their sins to be covered, pointing them to Calvary. God instituted sacrifices, pointing forward to Christ, our Sacrifice. Redemption is the way God has obtained this holy creation. Christ is the head of this new creation and everyone who will believe on Jesus Christ may become a **new creation**. In each dispensation, God tested humanity and man always failed and must be judged. Only the believers escape judgment, because Jesus bore the judgment for our sins on Calvary (Jn. 5:24).

## **Second Dispensation: The Age of Conscience**

This age began after the fall and ended with the flood, Gen. 4-7. It is also called **Antediluvian**, which means, before the flood. Man for the first time became **sin conscious**, he realized what sin was. Adam and Eve tried to cover their nakedness with their own efforts, but their fig leaves dried up and crumbled. That is the way with man's righteousness. But God's provision for man was by blood sacrifices. Of course they pointed to or represented the One sacrifice of Jesus Christ (the promised deliverer to come, Gen. 3:15) who atoned for man's sin.

**Man's responsibility was to offer the blood sacrifices.** In Gen. 4:1-8 we read of two offerings. Cain brought of the fruit of the ground that he grew and worked hard to get. Able brought a firstling of the flock that God had asked for and instructed that this was the way to come unto Him (Heb. 11:4). Some might say that God was not fair by rejecting Cain's offering, but God didn't cut him off. He gave Cain a chance to bring the right offering and to be accepted. God told him he did not do well, that a sin offering is lying at the door. He didn't have to work for it, just take it and offer it unto God. But Cain didn't do that. Instead that rebellion grew in his heart against God. He couldn't kill God, so he killed his brother Able.

There are really only two religions in this world, followers of Cain or followers of Able. Those who follow Able, go the blood way, they accept Jesus Christ as their Savior (whose blood was shed for sin) and become righteous. The others reject that sacrifice and trust in their works which is not acceptable to God - Eph. 2:8-9; II Tim. 1:8-10; Titus 3:4-6.

**God tested man as to the blood sacrifices.** In Genesis 4 and 5 we read of two lineages, Cain and Seth. After Cain refused to offer the blood sacrifice and deliberately killed Able his brother, we read, "And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD (Gen. 4:6). What a terrible place to be. He started a line of people that were out of God's fellowship completely. God doesn't say much about any of his descendents as to how long they lived or when they died. They were a very skilled people. Cain built the first city we read of in Scripture and named it after his son. Of Cain's descendants we read of

a rancher and also one who built musical instruments and played them, another made swords. But they were ungodly.

Adam had another son, Seth. His name means “appointed one.” Eve said, for God hath appointed me another seed for Able whom Cain slew. Seth was a godly man, an appointed man to be a seed for God. These were a different kind of people, that knew God. The fifth chapter traces the genealogy of Seth to ten generations. Adam lived 930 years. He was still alive when Lamech was born. See how it was possible for Moses to have written the first five books of the Bible. Adam could have spoken to Lamech and Lamech to Noah and Noah lived to be 950 years old. In this genealogy is Enoch and it says of him that he walked with God, and he was not; for God took him, Gen. 5:24. Enoch’s son Methuselah ended this dispensation.

Notice the conditions that ended this dispensation, (Ch. 6) every man was governed according to **his conscience**. The sons of God were the descendants of Seth and the daughters of men were descendants of Cain. The godly married the ungodly and things went down hill from there. God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thought of his heart was only evil continually. It repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at his heart. The Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth - Gen. 6:5-7. Man **failed** and became so wicked he had to be judged because of God’s holiness. This age ended in the **judgment of the flood**.

“But Noah found **grace** in the eyes of the Lord” – Ch. 6:8. God instructed Noah to build an ark which would save him and his family when the flood came. “Make thee an ark of gopher wood” – V. 14. It is the only tree which grew in the wilderness. It reminds us of Jesus, “a root out of the dry ground” – Isa. 53:2. The tree had to be first cut down. This is wonderfully significant of Christ! He had to be crucified before man could have an Ark of safety from Divine judgment. All that were in the Ark were **preserved** from judgment, for even the seams were closed. The whole ark was pitched within and without with resin, that which flowed from the tree when it was cut into. Christ death not only saves us, but **secures** us eternally. No waters of judgment could enter that ark of safety. The resin from the tree, is symbolic of Christ’s blood. Not one drop of the water of judgment could even touch them. The wondrous provision of Calvary is figured by the ark which Noah built (John 10:28-30).

Also **God’s grace** was shown to man in that Noah preached as he built the ark, but the people didn’t believe him. Read Heb. 11:7; I Pet. 3:20; and II Pet. 2:5. God had several stewards during that age.

### **Third Dispensation: The Age of Human Government**

This Age began after the flood, so it is also called **Post Diluvian** which means after the flood. It ended with the destruction of the tower of Babel (Gen. 8-11). **Man's responsibility** during this Age is found in Gen. 9:1 – "...God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth."

There was a definite change after the flood, a **new beginning**, a new Age. The first thing Noah did after the flood was to build an altar and offer burnt offerings unto the Lord. "And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for **the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth** (in other words he can't help it); neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done" - Gen. 8:20,21.

It was a wonderful way to start, but it didn't last that way very long. The next thing we read, "...Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent" – Gen. 9:20,21. It wasn't long before sin became exceedingly sinful in this new Age. Chapter 11 tells us, men became independent of God, wanting to be big, they were lifted up with pride. This is what happened in the Age of Human Government, man was leading man and again man **failed**. They went from the altar and sacrifice to the doctrine of Cain (self effort). Jude verse 11 tells us what God thinks of the doctrine of Cain, "Woe unto them! For they have gone in the way of Cain...".

God divided the nations according to the three sons of Noah – Gen. 10:23. **Japheth** had seven sons and they became the northern countries. "By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands" – Gen. 10:2-5. **Ham** became the southern countries. He had four sons – Gen. 10:6-20. Cush is the same as Ethiopia. Mizraim is the same as Egypt. Phut is the same as Libya. Canaan was cursed (Gen. 9:25). **Shem** had five sons – Gen. 10:21-31, the Shemites is the race Abraham came from – Gen. 11:10-26.

"...Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth...a mighty hunter...and the beginning of his kingdom was Babel..." – Gen. 10:8-10. The whole earth was one language and they said one to another, Go to, let us build a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; let us make us a name, – Gen. 11:1-4. The LORD came down to see the city and the tower and said, "Behold, the people is one, and...all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. The name of it was **Babel** (which means confusion by mixing), because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth, – Gen. 11:5-9.

**God had to judge** and so this dispensation of Human Government ended with the destruction of the tower, different languages and men scattered abroad. Man had become

too big in themselves and tried to reach heaven by their own effort. Today we see men trying to build a tower to heaven again in a high handed manner against God.

### **Fourth Dispensation: The Age of Promise**

This Age has also been called the **Abrahamic Covenant**. It began with Abram and ended at Mount Sinai, Gen. 12 – Ex. 19. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph were prominent characters and **stewards** during this time.

God in **sovereign grace** spoke to Abram who was an idolater. “Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that **I will** shew thee: and **I will** make of thee a great nation, and **I will** bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And **I will** bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed...So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken...Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son...they went forth...into the land of Canaan...And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed **will I** give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD...” Gen. 12:1-7. Read also Gen. 17:1-8; Josh. 24:2-3; Neh. 9:7-8 and Heb. 11:8-19. God called Abram out and made a special people of him and his descendents.

God’s promises to Abram were completely **unconditional**. We find the basis of God’s promise to him is the **sacrifice** (Gen. 15:7-10,18). All of the sacrifice speaks of **Christ** on the cross. The Heifer speaks of the **fruitfulness** of Christ, “in bringing many sons unto glory” – Heb. 2:10. The goat is used for a sin offering and speaks of the **substitutionary offering** of Christ for the sinner; “that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man” – Heb. 2:9. The Ram speaks of the **consecration** of the Lord Jesus and the **aggressiveness** of Him to do His Father’s will; “Then said He, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God” – Heb. 10:9. The birds speak of His **heavenly nature**; “I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world” – Jn. 16:28. The dove of His **gentleness** and **humbleness**, dwelling among sinners. Jesus said, “They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” – Lk. 5:31-32. The pigeon also speaks of **poverty**; “though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich” – II Cor. 8:9. All of these speak of the essence of our Savior.

The Apostle Paul pointed to Abraham as an example of the grace plan of salvation in Romans the fourth chapter. He points out that to Abraham was given the special promise regarding Christ. For He is the **fruitful Seed** through whom all nations were to be blessed. If any man had whereof to boast of God’s wonderful sovereign dealings it would be Abraham. On what ground was he justified? He was not justified by his works, or he would be able to boast; “Abraham **believed** God, and it was counted unto him for



righteousness” V. 3. Then is added, “But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his **faith** is counted for righteousness” V. 5. Abraham was “justified by faith without the deeds of the law.” In fact, there was no law given to Abraham. He lived four hundred and thirty years before the law was given, Gal. 3:17.

God simply told Abraham that He would bless him and make him a blessing. The only thing Abraham did was to **believe** God, that He could and would do as He had said. That was all there was to his justification. His inheritance in Canaan was obtained in the same manner. God said take possession of it and Abraham did. He entered in and enjoyed his inheritance **by faith**. It was also by **faith** that Abraham became the father of Isaac, and through him the father of many nations. In this he became like God who, through **his Seed which is Christ**, will become the Father of many sons. God never had any other way of salvation than that of **grace** and **faith**. “Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all” Rom. 4:16.

Romans. 4:23-25, “Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But **for us** also, to whom it shall be imputed (the same righteousness), if we **believe** (have the same kind of faith) on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; who was delivered for **our** offences (our Substitute), and was raised again for **our** justification.” That we may stand in Him perfect and upright. Christ’s resurrection is proof that His sacrifice was acceptable to God and is sufficient. The blood atones for all sin. We simply accept God’s mercy, which was extended to us in the **gift** of His Son. May we rejoice in God’s salvation to man by the channel of **faith**, accepting His Word, and enjoy His **grace**. The fact that Abraham was justified while uncircumcised, opens the door of justification to the Gentiles. They also may claim Him as their father on the ground of faith in Jesus Christ.

**Man’s responsibility** in this Age was to dwell in Canaan. Yes, Abraham’s descendants were strangers in Egypt 400 years and then came out in the fifth generation to the land. **Man’s failure** was leaving Canaan to live in Egypt. It was a **judgment** that they came to be in **bondage** in Egypt, yet God preserved them there and brought them forth. This Age also ended with God’s judgment on the Egyptians at the Red Sea.

### **Fifth Dispensation: The Age of Law**

This Age has also been called the **Mosaic Covenant**. This legal dispensation began at Sinai (Ex. 20) and ended at Calvary. Moses was the **steward**, but Joshua, Samuel and David were also prominent characters during this time. “And Moses verily was faithful

in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after” – Heb. 3:5.

God’s deliverance of Israel from Egypt was on the ground of His covenant of Promise He made with Abraham in pure grace. “And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob” – Ex. 2:24. But at Sinai Jehovah’s relationship to Israel was placed upon a different bases.

God bid Moses to say unto His people, “Now therefore, **if ye will obey** My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine; and ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation” – Ex. 19:5. The Lord was not referring to His covenant with Abraham, because there were no conditions attached to it. God proposed to make another covenant, to which there should be two parties – Himself and Israel: a covenant of works that Israel must keep if they were to enjoy the conditional blessings attached to it.

In response the people of Israel unanimously and boastfully said, “All that the Lord hath spoken **we will do**” – Ex. 19:8. So God made a Covenant with Israel. Moses was on the mount with the Lord forty days and forty nights. He wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments – Ex. 34:27-28. It was **man’s responsibility to keep all of the holy law of God**. Man miserably failed. In fact they had broken the commandments before Moses could even come down off Mount Sinai with them.

As Moses “came nigh unto the camp...he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses, anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount” – Ex. 32:19. The tables of stone lay **broken** on the ground, symbolic of the people breaking God’s Law.

Why couldn’t man keep the Law of God? “The law is holy and the commandment holy, and just, and good...For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin” – Rom. 7:12,14. God was instructing man that he is a sinner and **unable** to keep His holy law.

Then why did God give man the law he could not keep? “What things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become **guilty** before God...for by the law is the knowledge of sin” – Rom. 3:19,20. “Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound” – Rom. 5:20. “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law; for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet” – Rom. 7:7. “Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the **seed** should come to whom the promise was made...**the law was our schoolmaster to**

**bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith”** (not by the works of the law) – Gal. 3:19,24.

The law was never given to men or to Israel as a means of salvation, in fact it put the sentence of death upon us. “For the wages of sin is death” – Rom. 6:23. “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, **God sending his own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh” – Rom. 8:3. “God who is **rich in mercy**, for his **great love wherewith he loved us**, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ...**For by grace are ye saved through faith;** and that not of yourselves: it is the **gift** of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast” – Eph. 2:4,5,8,9.

This dispensation ended with **judgment upon the Lord Jesus Christ**. God poured out His wrath upon His Son hanging upon the Cross bearing our sin. Israel did suffer the judgment of being put out of the land of promise and the land was judged also.

### **Sixth Dispensation: The Age of Grace**

The Age of Grace is also called **The Church Age**. It is the dispensation in which we live. It began at the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and has continued over 2,000 years now. It will end with the second coming of Christ.

The covenant of Law made between God and man was abolished because it was weak and unprofitable. It could not change men’s hearts, Heb. 7:18-19. This dispensation of Grace is based on the everlasting covenant made between the Father and the Son before the foundation of the world, Heb. 13:20 and Acts 2:23. Christ is the mediator of this better covenant, Heb. 8:6. It was ratified by the shed blood of Christ, Heb. 12:24; it was once for all, Rom. 6:10 & Heb. 9:24-28.

John 1:14,17, “...the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth. For the law was given by Moses, but **grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**” Verses 10-12, “He was in the world, and world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not...But as many as received Him, to them **gave He** power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.” II Cor. 8:9, “For ye know **the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.”

This gospel of grace is not just for the children of Israel, but also to the Gentiles, Acts 9:15. God is visiting the Gentiles to take out a people for His Name, Acts 15:14. God so **loved the world** that He gave His Son to redeem whosoever would believe on Jesus, John 3:16. In this grace space of time God is dealing with all humanity and their attitude

toward His Son and His work of grace on the cross.

God was is Christ reconciling the world unto Himself (II Cor. 5:19), bring many sons unto glory (Heb. 2:10). **Man's responsibility** is to “...**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,**” Acts 16:31. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” – Eph. 2:8.

We know by scripture that man's **failure** is apostasy and the rejection of Christ which will bring the tribulation days on this earth. God will pour out His **judgment** on the ungodly nations. The Antichrist and false prophet will be cast alive into the lake of fire, Rev. 19:20.

The Apostle Paul is the **steward** of this Age. He said, “A dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me” – I Cor. 9:17. See also Col. 1:25; I Thes. 2:4; I Tim. 1:11 and Titus 1:3. He said in Acts 20:32, “...brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”

As the chief apostle to the church, it is so important to study and know the epistles written by Paul. For therein we learn that God would have us to grow up in Christ (Eph. 4:13); bear fruit (Phil. 1:11); be rich in good works that will glorify God; that we can be overcomers through Christ (Rom. 8:37); and run to win Christ as our Bridegroom on this Christian race course (Phil. 3:8-14).

## **Seventh Dispensation: The Kingdom Age**

The Kingdom Age is also called **The Millennium**, which means “a period of 1000 years.” It will be Christ's time to reign. He will take His throne in heaven (Rev. 4:2-3) to reign as God Almighty, while the Father will take a dispensational sabbath (rest). It will be the Lord's Day, Christ's day to reign (II Pet. 3:8). Gentile Times will have ended, they have had their day, but the nations will continue to rule in usurpation as we read in Psalm 2. “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His anointed (Christ), saying Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us” (vs. 1-3).

Psalm 2:4, “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure. Yet have I set **my king** upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth

for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron: thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

I Cor. 15:25 says, "For He (Christ) must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet." A period of about seven years called tribulation days will come to pass on this earth, for Christ must judge the nations. In Rev. 3:10 it is referred to as "the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world..." God will allow Satan, the Antichrist and the false prophet to deceive the world. The three make up a trinity of evil (Rev. 13).

The nations will come against Israel to destroy them. God will use them as a instrument of judgment to purge Israel and bring a remnant of that nation unto Himself. Their trouble will cause them to cry out to their God and Christ will reveal Himself unto them from heaven. They shall finally accept their Messiah and mourn for Him whom they had pierced. Then the Lord shall turn on the nations to destroy them for coming against His people (Zech. 12:8-10). The Lord shall roar out of heaven in judgment with the armies (saints) of heaven following Him (Rev. 19:11-21). Read also Jude 14-15.

**Christ Himself is the steward of this Age.** Then shall the Lord be king over all the earth (Zech. 14:9). The whole world shall be blessed and there shall be peace for the Prince of peace will be reigning (Rev. 20:6). His kingdom has come as it was in heaven (Mt. 6:10). "Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end..." Isa. 9:7. War will cease, Hos. 2:18. There are so many scriptures that tell of the blessedness of the Kingdom Age that we will only mention a few. Isa. 11:6-9, "The wolf...shall dwell with the lamb...the leopard shall lie down with the kid...the calf and the young lion... a little child shall lead them...the lion shall eat straw like the ox...the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp...They shall not hurt nor destroy...for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord...". The Lord will give rain and the earth will bring forth superabundantly (Joel 2:23-24; Amos 9:14 -15). Israel shall be the head nation and no longer the tail (Isa. 49:23; 60:16; Zech. 14:16; Mal. 3:12).

It truly will be wonderful, even though sin will still be present (Isa. 65:20). Satan will not be around to stir it up. For Christ will bind Him for 1000 year in the bottomless pit after the tribulation period (Rev. 20:1-3). **Man's responsibility will be allegiance to Christ; his failure will be those who fain a devotion to Him.** When the 1000 years are up Satan will be loosed out of his prison. God will use him to stir up the unbelieving nations and gather them together for God's swift **judgment** (Rev. 20:7-9). Then **Satan will be judged** by being cast into the lake of fire (V. 10), where the Antichrist and the false prophet are. The **last judgment** is the Great White Throne judgment of the wicked dead (Rev. 20:11-15).

I Cor. 15:26-28, "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For He hath put all

things under His feet. But when He saith, all things are put under Him, it is manifest that He is excepted, which did put all things under Him. And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.” The seventh dispensation ends and there will be time no longer (Rev. 10:6). In the eternal state there will be a new heaven and a new earth. There will be nothing that defileth, neither worketh abomination, there will be no more curse (Rev. 21:1,5; 22:1-5).

“...It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son” Rev. 21:6-7.

**AMEN**

