

DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH - 2 Tim. 2:15

Dispensation - The different doctrines whereby God deals with (i.e. reveals, speaks to, dispenses, or ministers to) different groups of people at different times of history.

- A. "dispensation" used 4X in KJB. - 1 Cor. 9:17; Eph. 1:10; Eph. 3:2; Col. 1:25
- B. Everyone who ultimately ends up in the family of God has their sins purged (i.e. their sins completely forgiven, removed, and taken away forever) through the pure shed blood (D/B/R) of Jesus Christ at the Cross of Calvary. However, each dispensation has its own unique requirements for living (and dying) in right relationship (i.e. "safe" → Prov. 29:25) with God. - Acts 4:12; John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:1-6; John 3:16; 1 John 2:1-2

CHARACTERISTICS OF BIBLE DISPENSATIONS

1. INNOCENCE

Primary Bible Character(s): Adam & Eve

References - Gen. 1-3

Right Relationship with God Based On: Obeying God's one commandment. - Gen. 2:16-17

How Dispensation Ends: Adam & Eve disobey God. - Gen. 3

2. CONSCIENCE

Primary Bible Character(s): Noah & Abraham

References - Gen 4-50; Gen. 6:5-9; Gen. 22:1-18; Job; Rom. 2:13-15; James 2:21-24; Heb. 11:7

Right Relationship with God Based On: Believing and actively obeying God according to the conscience God gave every man.

How Dispensation Ends: Mankind fails to follow his conscience and God drowns out the whole world except for Noah, his 3 sons, and their wives (8 people) - Gen. 6-7; Gen. 6:11-13

3. LAW

Primary Bible Character(s): Moses & David

References - Exodus-Malachi; Gen. 9:1-6; Ex. 20:1-17 (Deut. 5:6-22)

Right Relationship with God Based On: Believing and actively obeying God. - Deut. 32:18-22; Ps. 9:17; 1 Kings 2:3; Ex. 4:1-9 Note that David feared losing the Holy Spirit. - Ps. 51:11-12

How Dispensation Ends: Mankind fails to keep God's Law. - Gal. 3:21-29

4. JESUS CHRIST MINISTERING ON EARTH

Primary Bible Character(s): John the Baptist - Matt. 3:1-12; John 1:1-37; Jesus Christ - Matt. 15:24; Twelve Apostles - Matt 10:1-8 (ministries prior to Calvary and primarily to Jews)

References - Matthew - John (the four gospels); John 4:23-24 (transition to a spiritual economy rather than a physical economy); Acts 19:1-6

Right Relationship with God Based On: Believing and discipleship, i.e. actively obeying, following, and serving the Lord Jesus Christ. - Matt. 4:18-23; Matt. 5-7 (Sermon on the Mount); Matt. 19:16-22

How Dispensation Ends: Mankind fails. Jesus Christ was rejected as the Messiah and Saviour, and this was immediately followed by the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

5. CHURCH AGE

Primary Bible Character(s): The Apostle Paul and all believers saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ until the Rapture of the Church.

NOTE: The Jews reject Jesus Christ so the Jews are set aside *temporarily*. - Rom. 11:20-25
In four places in the book of Acts, God turns away from dealing with the Jews as a nation and turns to the Gentiles. - Acts 7:54-60; 13:46; 18:1-6; 28:28-31

References - Romans - Philemon and any Bible verses which match the Pauline Epistles. - Rom. 11:6, 13; Rom. 16:25; Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:9; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:13-18;

Right Relationship with God Based On: Grace through faith alone in the D/B/R of the Lord Jesus Christ without good works and without water baptism. - Rom. 3:19-31; 4:5-8; 5:15-21; 6:23; 11:25-26; Eph. 2:8-9; 3:1-6; Gal. 2:16, 3:26; John 3:36, 5:24; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; 1 Cor. 1:17; 1 Cor. 12:13; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 1 Pet. 3:21; Col. 2:10-14

How Dispensation Ends: Mankind fails. The Gentile bride (church/body of Christ) is saved and raptured, but both Gentiles & Jews largely end up rejecting the gospel of the grace of God.

6. TRIBULATION

Primary Bible Character(s): Antichrist, lost Jews and lost Gentiles which are left behind after Rapture of Church.

References - Daniel; 1 John 2:18; 2 John 1:7; 2 Thess. 2:1-12; Rev. 13; 17:8-18; 20:4; Jer. 30:7; Isa. 33:1-15; Matt. 24; Luke 21:21-28; Rev. 6-18 (Four accounts of the Tribulation: Seals-Rev.6, Trumpets-Rev.8; Vials-Rev.15-16; Doom of Babylon-Rev.17-18)

Right Relationship with God Based On: Believing in Jesus and keeping the commandments of God. - Deut. 4:30; Heb. 10:26-27, 38-39; 1 John 3:23-24; Rev. 7:1-17, 12:17, 13:10, 14:9-12

How Dispensation Ends: Mankind fails and Jesus Christ comes back (2nd Advent); Christ fights/destroys His enemies at the battle of Armageddon. - Isa. 34; Rev. 16:13-16; 19:17-21

7. MILLENNIUM

Primary Bible Character(s): Jesus Christ reigning (as KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" - Rev. 19:16) from the throne of David in Jerusalem and all saints on the earth who will dwell in the Kingdom of Heaven (on earth) for 1000 years.

References - Rev. 20:1-10; Isa. 11, 35; Matt. 4:23-25, 5:3, 20, 22, 11:12; Matt 5-7 (Sermon on the Mount ; i.e. Rules and Regulations for the Millennial Kingdom); Isa. 65:17-20 (Sin still present in Mill.); Hag. 2:9, Ps. 72:3 (Peace on earth until the final "Gog and Magog" war that ends all wars → Rev. 20)

The 12 apostles shall sit upon 12 thrones and judge the 12 tribes of Israel according to the ancient OT theocratic judgeship. - 1 Kings 4:7; Matt. 19:28; Luke 22:30; Rev. 21:12

Right Relationship with God Based On: Believing and actively obeying God. - Isa. 65:18-20

How Dispensation Ends: Mankind fails and rebels against God and fire comes down from God out of Heaven and devours all remaining enemies of God. - Rev. 20:1-15

ETERNITY FUTURE

Eternity Future has similarities to the Millennium, but then **no sin** will be possible and **time shall be no more**. AMEN! - Isa. 65:17; 2 Pet. 3:7-14; Rev. 21-22

God wipes away all tears two times in the Bible: 1) following Judgment Seat of Christ (near/at the end of the Tribulation) - Rev. 7:17 and 2) following Great White Throne Judgment - Rev. 21:4; Isa. 25:8