

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT DISPENSATIONALISM? Part Three: July 29, 2020

### Dispensationalism

- **Definition:**

- A “grid” or \_\_\_\_\_ of Bible interpretation that says:
  - *“Although God has but one plan of \_\_\_\_\_, he has had various ways of dealing with man in regard to it, and those over a long period of time....Though God does not change, his \_\_\_\_\_ often do.”*

Thiessen, Lectures in Systematic Theology, p. 202.

### The Primary Alternative

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Theology:**
  - Theological system or “grid” devised by John \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Held by most Presbyterians and Reformed churches today.

### Review

<b>Dispensationalism</b>	<b>Reformed Theology</b>
Different administrations for different times	Three _____ for all time
_____, historical, grammatical interpretation	Allegorical or _____ interpretations of prophetic passages
The Church is _____ Israel.	The Church is Israel.
God is not yet finished with national Israel.	God is _____ with national Israel.
The Church Age is not _____ in the Old Testament.	The Church Age is read back into the Old Testament.
Futurist interpretation of prophecy	Preterist or _____ interpretation of prophecy
_____ return of Christ at Rapture	No imminent return of Christ and no _____
_____ eschatology	Postmillennial or Amillennial eschatology

### Is Dispensationalism Biblical?

- **Dispensation is a good \_\_\_\_\_ word.**
  - Dispensation = “\_\_\_\_\_, stewardship, administration, management”
  - God is unchanging, but His “\_\_\_\_\_ style” changes from time to time.
  - Eph. 1:10: \_\_\_\_\_
    - A description in this verse of the last dispensation of the \_\_\_\_\_ state.
  - Eph. 3:2: \_\_\_\_\_

- In this passage, Paul describes the present dispensation of \_\_\_\_\_ or the church age.
- Eph. 3:5: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Paul mentions other ages that did not belong to and predated this present dispensation of grace.

### **What about the Other Dispensations?**

- **Consider God's primary \_\_\_\_\_ for His dispensational dealings with the human race:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ and reconciliation
  - Gal. 4:4-5: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Three primary \_\_\_\_\_ for God's use of dispensations:**

- To deal effectively with the absolute \_\_\_\_\_ of the human heart, and the unwavering inclination of human race to backslide over time and turn away from truth.
- To show the absolute \_\_\_\_\_ of a Redeemer.
- To reap a maximum \_\_\_\_\_ of souls off this planet.

- **Each dispensation involves a test, a failure, and a judgment.**

- The test = man's responsibility to wisely and faithfully \_\_\_\_\_ God's revelation
- The failure = man's \_\_\_\_\_ of God's revelation
- The judgment = man's \_\_\_\_\_ to God for his stewardship. Afterwards:
  - God makes \_\_\_\_\_ in the stewardship arrangements.
  - God gives \_\_\_\_\_ revelation for the new dispensation to follow.

### **An Overview of Dispensations**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **(before the Fall)**

- Test: to \_\_\_\_\_ God's one rule.
- Failure: Adam and Eve disobeyed God's rule.
- Judgment: \_\_\_\_\_ and the Curse
- Change in arrangements: \_\_\_\_\_ from God, greater pain and toil, loss of Paradise
- New revelation:
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ is coming! (Gen. 3:15)
  - The witness of human \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 3:7)

- \_\_\_\_\_ **(Fall to Flood)**

- Test: to wisely steward revelation of conscience and creation.
  - Gen. 4:9: God appealing to \_\_\_\_\_ conscience
- Failure: People seared their consciences to chase after sin.

- Gen. 6:3, 5: humanity was \_\_\_\_\_ devoted to evil
  - Judgment: global \_\_\_\_\_
  - Change in arrangements: shorter human life \_\_\_\_\_, altered world, Noaic covenant
  - New revelation: human government
- \_\_\_\_\_ **(Flood to Abraham)**
  - Test: to wisely steward the new opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ in the earth under government
    - Gen. 9:5-7: government would now \_\_\_\_\_ evildoers
  - Failure: People used government as a new tool to aid in their \_\_\_\_\_ against God.
    - Gen. 11:3-9: “Let us make a name...”
  - Judgment: confusing of \_\_\_\_\_ at Babel
  - Change in arrangements: humanity \_\_\_\_\_
  - New revelation: Abrahamic \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ **(Abraham to Sinal)**
  - Test: to interact wisely with the family of blessed Abraham
    - Gen. 12:1-3: a blessing for \_\_\_\_\_ families of the earth
  - Failure: the most powerful nation on earth \_\_\_\_\_ God’s blessings through Abraham’s family and persecuted his descendants.
  - Judgment: the \_\_\_\_\_ on Egypt
  - New revelation: the \_\_\_\_\_ covenant
  - Change in arrangements: Israel in the land, greater accountability for sin through \_\_\_\_\_
    - Rom. 5:13-14: \_\_\_\_\_
    - Gal. 3:17-19: the \_\_\_\_\_ for the Law
- **Law (Sinal to \_\_\_\_\_)**
  - Test:
    - For Israel: to be a \_\_\_\_\_ to all nations by wisely stewarding the covenant of God through Moses
    - For others: to respond wisely to the revelation of God through national Israel
      - Deut. 4:5-9: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Failure:
    - Israel failed to \_\_\_\_\_ the Law, uphold their distinctiveness, and recognize their Messiah.
    - Other nations rejected God’s revelation and \_\_\_\_\_ His people.

- Deut. 4:23-27: \_\_\_\_\_
- New revelation:
  - The Mosaic covenant
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Testament revelation
  - The Person of the \_\_\_\_\_!
    - John 1:14-18: the revelation of God in human form!
    - Gal. 4:4-5: \_\_\_\_\_
- Judgments: Babylonian \_\_\_\_\_, dispersion and \_\_\_\_\_ of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.
  - Luke 14:34-35: Jerusalem \_\_\_\_\_
  - Luke 19:41-44: Jerusalem's destruction prophesied
- New revelation:
  - The gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit
    - John 16:13: \_\_\_\_\_
  - The books of the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament
- Change in arrangements:
  - The \_\_\_\_\_
    - Eph. 3:5-6: \_\_\_\_\_
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ Christ
    - Col. 1:27: \_\_\_\_\_
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit
- \_\_\_\_\_ **(Pentecost to Rapture)**
  - Distinctive characteristics:
    - The dispensation of God's \_\_\_\_\_
      - Heb. 1:1-2: \_\_\_\_\_
        - In these last days = at the end of these days
    - The dispensation of the Holy Spirit
      - John 16:7: \_\_\_\_\_
    - The dispensation of the \_\_\_\_\_
      - Luke 21:24: the "times of the Gentiles"
  - Test: to believe and wisely steward the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus Christ
    - Matt. 28:18-20: the Great \_\_\_\_\_
  - Failure: the vast majority are rejecting the gospel
  - Judgment: the \_\_\_\_\_
    - Rev. 3:10: \_\_\_\_\_
  - New revelation: Christ \_\_\_\_\_ on earth!

- **\_\_\_\_\_ Kingdom (Rev. 20)**
  - Change in arrangements:
    - An \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom ruled by Christ
      - Jer. 23:5: \_\_\_\_\_
    - Perfectly \_\_\_\_\_ government
      - Rev. 19:15: \_\_\_\_\_
    - A thousand-year administration involving Resurrected \_\_\_\_\_
      - Rev. 20:4-6: \_\_\_\_\_
    - The best time ever to live on Earth since the Fall
      - World \_\_\_\_\_
      - Partial rollback of the \_\_\_\_\_
      - Restored human longevity
      - No temptation from \_\_\_\_\_ or the world system
      - Israel \_\_\_\_\_ and thriving in their land
      - Global \_\_\_\_\_ at Jerusalem
  - Test: to respond wisely to the personal revelation and rule of Christ as the righteous King of Kings over all the earth
  - Failure: The vast majority of people will \_\_\_\_\_ Christ and follow Satan at the end.
    - Rev. 4:7-10: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Judgment: devouring \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven, Great \_\_\_\_\_ Throne judgment, lake of fire
  - Change of arrangements: \_\_\_\_\_ heaven and earth, New Jerusalem
- **\_\_\_\_\_ State (Rev. 21-22)**
  - Eph. 1:10: \_\_\_\_\_
  - New revelation: access to God's \_\_\_\_\_
    - Rev. 22:3-4: \_\_\_\_\_

**Application**

- **How do we respond to the \_\_\_\_\_ we have been given?**
  - Luke 12:47-48: \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_