

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;” Hebrews 1:1-2

God’s word is literal, inerrant and infallible and we are to read and study it as such.

“Dispensation” is a word used to describe different periods of time in which God revealed truths to mankind. There are many critics of this teaching, especially among liberal theologians, a-millennialists, and covenant theologians. Nevertheless, the inspired word of God clearly teaches us that God has indeed spake to certain men in “sundry times” and in “diverse manners.” In order to avoid error in biblical interpretation, a careful study of the Bible is necessary, and that will include what the apostle Paul described to Timothy as, “rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15) This instruction to “rightly” divide the Bible is what the study of dispensations is at heart.

Hyper-dispensationalism is an errant form of Bible division and creates heresy. It states only the Pauline epistles are for the church age. It states that baptism and the Lord’s supper are not for the church. It teaches that the 4 gospels are Jewish and not pertinent to the church. It teaches that the church in Acts 2 is not the same as the church in Acts 9 onward. It teaches that people were saved in different ways. They take 2 Timothy 2:15 to hyperdrive.

### Principles of Dispensations:

1. God reveals portions of truth, or revelation, to man and also provides man’s \_\_\_\_\_ which always accompany such revealed truth.
  1. God requires man’s \_\_\_\_\_, or faithful obedience, in each dispensation. (Luke 16:2; Titus 1:7; 1 Corinthians 4:1, 9:7; Colossians 1:25)
2. There is a period of time in each, and in each of them we find that mankind always ends in \_\_\_\_\_ or apostasy to the revealed truths and subsequent responsibilities.
  1. Galatians 4:2-4
3. They are never presented by God as different ways to be \_\_\_\_\_!
4. The truths revealed at the various times did not cease to exist. God’s revealed truth is both progressive and \_\_\_\_\_, (Building upon the previous) having fulfillment in the 1st advent of Christ and the New Testament.
5. There are 7 dispensations “in time” and one other that is “\_\_\_\_\_.”

### Dispensations Time Table:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - Genesis 1:28 to 3:6.
  1. God made everything “very good;” perfect environment.
  2. Free will of man. Believe God, or the serpent.
  3. Ends in the fall of Adam in sin.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - Genesis 3:7 to 8:14.
  1. Now conscience of evil, Satan’s nature now the spirit of mankind.
  2. God clothes Adam & Eve w/coats of skins; blood shed, Messiah promised.
  3. Ends with the great flood. (Gen.6 - evil/violence filled the earth)
3. Human \_\_\_\_\_ - Genesis 8:15 to 11:32.
  1. To govern man, punishing evil, protecting mankind.
  2. Tower of Babel begins, God confounds their plans w/various tongues. Shows Satan’s attempts to create a one-world government which he rules & that worships him.
  3. Ends with the call of God to Abraham. (This is an eternal covenant)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ - Genesis 12:1 to Exodus 18:27.
  1. All the nations of the earth will be blessed through faithful Abraham. Builds upon the promise of God to Adam & Eve (Gen.3:15). The lineage of the nation of Israel and ultimately the channel by which Christ would come.
  2. Ends in the giving of the Law of Moses.

5. The Law - Exodus 19:4-24 to John 19:30.
  1. To the nation of Israel who are to represent God to man.
  2. Blood sacrifices required; could never take away sins. Proved to man that we cannot be righteous and fall woefully short of the glory of God.
  3. Ends at the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
6. \_\_\_\_\_, or the Church Age - Acts 2:1 to Revelation 19.
  1. The new covenant in the blood of Jesus. The gospel commanded to go to every creature that all may be saved.
  2. The rapture of the saints signals the Tribulation period and then to Christ's return.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ - Revelation 19:11 to 22.
  1. Is 1,000 years in length. Christ will judge the nations, be King of all the earth; Satan will be bound in the pit for 1,000 years. The Bible says that it will be a time of great joy and holiness, true justice, the curse of sin removed and a time of great health.
  2. We will be in our glorified, eternal bodies. However, there will be those whom are still alive at the end of the tribulation, redeemed, and will have families.
  3. Satan will be loosed at its end and go and deceive the nations for one final rebellion against God. No chance! Satan and all unbelieving will be cast into the lake of fire.

Notes: