

L29 | Ephesians | "The Dispensation of The Fulness of Times" | Eph. 1:7-12

I. Intro/Review:

- The Mystery of His Will
 - Abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence
 - Having made known unto us
- According to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself
 - All things in heaven and on earth gathered together in one, in Christ

II. Preview:

- The Dispensation of the Fulness of Times
 - Dispensation
 - Fulness
 - of Times
- Word Study
- Identifying 1) Times, and 2) the Fulness of Times

III. Sermon:

{Ephesians 1:10} - "that in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him:"

Word Study

- "dispensation"
 - **Charles Baker - A Dispensational Theology - pg. 1**
 - **C. R. Stam - Things That Differ - pg. 24** - The root of this long word, however, has a very simple meaning, for the word dispense means simply to deal out. The word dispensation, then, means the act of dispensing or dealing out, or, that which is dispensed or dealt out.
 - **Pg. 25** - "...a dispensation is not a period of time but the act of dealing out or that which is dealt out...a dispensation covers a period of time."
 - "The organic meaning of the original word for dispensation is "house management"..."
 - "Sometime this word is translated stewardship in the Authorized Version. This is interesting because the word steward, rather than meaning servant, as some have supposed, means house manager. The steward was the head servant, the one into whose hands the management of the house was committed. He dealt out the money for the household necessities, dispensed the food and clothing to the servants and children, paid the wages, etc. All was entrusted to him to dispense faithfully and wisely. He was the appointed dispenser of his Lord's goods and of the business of the household."
- Stewards/Stewardship
 - Luke 12:42 - "wise steward"
 - Luke 16:1-2 - "steward"
 - 1 Cor. 4:1-2 - "stewards"

- administration (of a household or estate); specifically a “economy”
- **"fulness"**
 - **Important Matter**
 - Eph. 1:23 - "which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all."
 - Eph. 3:19 - "...that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."
 - repletion or completion, that is, (subjectively) what fills (as contents, supplement, multitude), or (objectively) what is filled (as container, performance, period): - which is put in to fill up, piece that filled up, fulfilling, full, fulness.
 - I made comments before about the distinction between the word "fulness" and "fullness". I didn't go into much detail and glad I didn't, because I probably would have described it differently than I do now.
 - My understanding is they are the same word, but that word can have different meanings in different contexts. It is the same word, but the context helps you understand which meaning.
 - Therefore, you can have something that is full, like a the glass is full of water, or you can have "the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof"; that is, the earth isn't full of water, nor land, nor frogs, but all that is therein is its fulness. "Fulness" can entail the component parts of the whole that it is full of (issue of purpose and design; qualitative), or it can be one component part filling (measurement, quantitative).
 - Ps. 96:11-12
 - Ps. 16:11
 - Matthew 9:16; Mark 2:21; 8:20; John 1:16; Romans 11:12,25; 13:10; 15:29; 1 Corinthians 10:26,28; Galatians 4:4; Ephesians 1:10,23; 3:19; 4:13; Colossians 1:19; 2:9.
- **"times"**
 - **Important Matter**
 - "Of Him, through Him, to Him"
 - Eph. 2:2 - "time past"
 - Eph. 2:7 - "ages to come"
 - Eph. 2:13 - "but now"
 - Eph. 3:5 - "in other ages", "now"
 - Eph. 3:10 - "to the intent that now"
 - Eph. 3:21 - "unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."
 - Eph. 4:30 - "day of redemption"
 - Eph. 5:16 - "redeeming the time, because the days are evil."
 - Of uncertain affinity; an occasion, that is, set or proper time: - X always, opportunity, (convenient, due) season, (due, short, while) time, a while
- **Summary**
 - The fulness of times is the fruit of that which God fulfilled within "times".
 - The dispensation of the fulness of times will see the gathering together of all things in one in Christ Jesus.
 - Therefore, in "times" God is fulfilling His will concerning the earth and heaven to eventually display His fulness of times and therefore "in times" God is dealing either with the power, dominion, and authority on the earth, or in the heaven.

Identifying 1) Times, and 2) the fulness of times

- Romans 5

1. From Adam to Moses

- Adam - Dominion
- Noah - Dominion
- Abraham - A Great Nation
- Moses

2. From Moses to Christ

- Moses - Law, Head of Nations
- Joshua
- Judges
- David - 2 Sam. 7
- Daniel
- Christ

Kingdom (Earth)

3. Christ (1) to Christ (2) - (Heb. 9:28; 1 Pet. 1:6-13)

- Daniel's Time schedule
- Feast Days
- Millennium - 1 Cor. 15; Rev.

4. Paul

- Dispensation of grace
- Mystery of Christ

Kingdom (Heavenly)

IV. Conclusion:

- Col. 1 - created all things
- Col. 1 - reconciled all things
- Eph. 1 - gather all things