

D & A 10 - Dispensation of The Fullness of Times - *a study for the Bible Institute at Gulf Coast Baptist Church Spring 2023* by Steve Thomas

Master - The Master of the Dispensation is God the Son. He will reside in the New Jerusalem with the Father (Rev 21:22). The Father will give to the Son the kingdoms of the Earth, and He will rule them. The New Jerusalem will descend from the heaven to light the earth (Matt 24:27-30 Ezek 37:27-28) He will then sit on His throne, instead of the right hand of the Father's throne. The Son will descend to the earth for various feasts and will receive the worship from the citizens of the earth (Zech 14:16, Ezekiel 44:4, 24;45:21). The New Jerusalem is described in Rev 21:10 and on. The city will enter eternity after the thousand years.

The Spirit is not in the new Jerusalem, because he has been poured out on all flesh and will be on the Earth. (Joel 2:28-29) The Holy Spirit will be on all flesh, no distinctions given. This will make it more difficult to sin, and easier to keep God's commandments.

Steward - The steward of the Dispensation of the Fullness of Times is David. He will be resurrected to take the earthly throne (Ezek 34:23-24; 37:24-25; Hosea 3:5). The OT believers will receive the Eternal Life they have been promised (Heb 11:39-40; Dan 12:2-3, 12-13). There will be many thrones and individuals to sit on thrones. The 24 Elders will sit on thrones with Christ, a group of martyrs will sit on thrones as well as stated in Rev 20:4. Christ will be the King of Kings, and there will be a united Israel, and David will rule under the rule of Christ as the steward on the earth.

Household - Resurrected Israel (The dry bones vision Ezek 37) will be part of the household. The One third remnant of Israelites who survived the tribulation period will also be a part of this household (Ezek 36:24-28; Matt 24:13; Rom 11:26). Also, believing Gentiles will enter the Kingdom from the Heavens having been sorted during the Sheep and Goats judgement (Matt 25:32). So any unbeliever not killed at the final battle of the Tribulation will be sent into eternal fire at this time. There will be only believing Jews and Gentiles beginning this dispensation.

Rule of Life/Test - the Kingdom from the Heavens is distinct from the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is all those who have ever been saved throughout time (John 3:3,5). It is an invisible kingdom made up of only believers. The Kingdom from the heavens however, is an earthly kingdom that is visible. It is made up of both believers and unbelievers. The unbelievers will be the children of those who entered the Kingdom. Both of these groups will be required to obey the law from the Heavens (Isaiah 2:3) Zion is the reference to the New Jerusalem. Part of this law was given during Christ's offer of the Kingdom to the nation of Israel while he was on earth, the Sermon on the Mount. This passage is greatly misunderstood by believers today. Many see it as a simple rearranging of the Mosaic Law. Others see it as the rule of life for

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believers today, both groups are incorrect. Notice the differences that are often allegorized away: Matt 5:21-22, 27-30, Matt 13:40-42, 49-50.

Isaiah 65:20 tells us that ages will be much greater during this time, nations will be required to come yearly to Jerusalem to worship. Those nations who do not come will receive consequences (Zech 14:17-19). Those who do will bring of their abundance and feast. God's presence will not cause everyone to obey. Many will be punished for disobedience and immediately be cast into the lake of fire.

Satan will be bound in the abyss for the entire time (1000 years). He will not be able to deceive the nations (Rev 20:2-3, 2 Cor 4:3-4). Many of the nations who have been governed by God for the thousand years will be deceived by Satan upon his release and will follow him (Rev. 20:7-9). Those who have been outwardly following God, but inwardly unbelievers will follow Satan being deceived by him.

God is showing man during this time that the elimination of two of their spiritual enemies will not guarantee success. Satan and his world system will be kept from tempting mankind during this time. Only the sin natures of man will be present, but this is plenty. During Christ's Kingdom manifesto in Matt 5-7 He lists many sins of the flesh: adultery, sexual lust, hating, avenging yourself, and divorce are results of sins of the flesh.

Even after 1000 years of instant justice, righteous rule, and earthly abundance, many will be deceived and follow Satan. Following the rapture, the Day of the Lord will begin (this includes the Tribulation and Millennial Reign of Christ). This period is called the Fullness of Times, because after this, time will be no more. Eternity will be ushered in. The Final battle between God and Satan will be fought (it will be a short one) and the Great White Throne judgement will take place. Those being judged there will be thrown into the Lake of Fire prepared for the Devil and his angels.

There will be a New Heaven and a New Earth described in Rev 21. The New Jerusalem will be transported to this place. 2 Peter 3:10-13 gives the church a proper mind-set looking forward to these things, thus enduring our daily routine in holiness and godliness. All of this now is temporary, God will destroy everything around us. What He has for us next is better.

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Kingdom from the Heavens

- Rule of the heavens over the earth (Dan 4:17, 25, 32; Ps 2:2, 6)
- Christ will establish when He returns at His second coming to Earth (Zech 14:9, Rev 11:15)
- Entrance will be by the remaining believing Jews and the Sheep (of Sheep and Goats) from the tribulation period (Matt 25:32-33)
- Was promised to David (2 Sam 7:13-16; Luke 1:32-33)
- Offered to Israel by John the forerunner and by Christ through His disciples (Matt 3:2, 4:17, 4:23)
- Will contain believers and unbelievers (Rev 20:7,8; Matt 13:41-42; 7:21-22)
- Is a visible Kingdom with Christ on the Throne and David as His prince (Ex 34:24, 37:25)
- Used by Matthew's gospel exclusively - 32 times
- Its inhabitants gained blessing by obedience and cursing from disobedience (Matt 5:21-48; Zech 14:17-19)
- Is difficult for a rich man to enter (Matt 19:24)

Kingdom of God

- God's rule over all the saved
- Includes Spirit Beings, and saints from all time periods, with no unbelievers (John 3:3,5, Acts 8:12)
- Also refers to God's rule over his universe
- Relates to the rule over the sphere of salvation
- Is invisible along side the visible
- Was also being offered by the Messiah alongside the Kingdom from the heavens (Matt 6:33, Mark 1:14-15; Acts 1:3)
- Used by Matthew's gospel 5 times, Luke 33, and John twice
- Our acceptance by God is through Christ (1 Jn 2:1; 1 Cor 1:30; 2 Cor 5:21)
- Entrance is by salvation through faith by God's grace. (Jn 8:24; Matt 21:31; 2 Cor 3:3; 1 Jn 5:11-13)
- Is impossible for a rich man to enter - but possible with God (Matt 19:24-26)