

Dispensation of Innocence, Conscience, Human Government, Promise, Law, Grace, and the Fulness of Times.

When God gave mankind the authority to govern themselves, man united together against God. Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Believers are not to delve into the world in order to fix the apparent problems that exist.

Goodness does not guarantee perfect obedience. Even when God provides paradise mankind still will choose to go his own way. Man continues to look for something beyond what God has provided. _____

God has an attitude by which he acts and provides for those who are not deserving of his action or provision. Though man is not deserving, God has provided him all spiritual blessings in His Son Jesus Christ. God gave his people many responsibilities but all of these responsibilities are connected to the command to love one another the way He loved them. God's attitude has provided everything the believer needs to live the way God intended. Mankind has shown that he will direct this love towards things or towards himself instead of towards his brethren.

Even when mankind possessed the knowledge that obedience to God would bring true happiness, he chose to not seek this happiness but attempted to find happiness on his own. It is possible for this knowledge to become perverted and to fail to provide a proper guide for behavior. _____

Even when God provides immediate justice, a paradise to live, a visual God to worship, and limited temptation - man will still seek an alternative to righteous obedience. God will bless obedience and will punish disobedience in the most just way possible. He will provide new and better ways for mankind to keep his laws, but many will obey outwardly reserving a sinful heart. When provided with an alternative, mankind will reject righteous rule and follow the Evil One.

If Abraham's descendants could keep God's statutes and Commandments, the nation surrounding them we consider them wise and understanding. They would observe the relationship of Israel to God and they would consider God to be righteous. Israel's failure to keep these statutes demonstrated that man could not redeem himself; he needed a Redeemer. Man could not live righteously before God, even when God sets the standard. Clear rules and regulations are not enough motivation for men to be righteous, neither are clear consequences for failure. _____

God's words provided the basis of hope and faith for Abraham and his family. God gave revelation to a few people instead of the entire human race. This family and their descendants would be governed by these words. When Abraham believed God, God counted it for righteousness in Abraham's life. Could Abraham's descendants live and believe with this test?

Even when God showed His faithfulness, man chose not to believe Him, instead relying on a sense that they could do anything that God asked them to do.
