

**Study** to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing** the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

# Dispensations:

## The Key to Rightly Dividing God's Word

### Perspectives on Rightly Dividing

**KEY POINTS** YOU MUST HAVE GOD'S PERSPECTIVE ON GOD'S WORD!

#### **Perspective #1: The purpose of the Bible.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - **All** scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable** for **doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be **perfect**, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Doctrine = Teaching. Truth!

Perfect = Complete. Fully \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Perspective #2: The theme of the Bible - A King and His Kingdom.**

This is chronicled in the Bible in 3 primary ways:

1. The **POWERS**: God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) and Satan – Matt. 28:19, 3:16-17; John 14:16-17; 2 Cor. 13:14; Gen. 3; Job 1; Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19.
2. The **PLACES**: Heaven, Earth, Hell – Gen. 1:1-25; Job 22:12; Ps. 14:2, 146:5-6; Matt. 10:28, 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4.
3. The **PEOPLE**: Jew, Gentile, \_\_\_\_\_ – Rom. 2:9-10; 1 Cor. 10:32; Gal. 3:28.

**KEY POINTS** ALL OF THE BIBLE IS WRITTEN **FOR YOU**, BUT NOT ALL OF IT IS WRITTEN \_\_\_\_\_ **YOU**.

It is primarily a Jewish book with a Jewish perspective. Only a part is related to Christianity (Church Age). You must always have the proper perspective.

#### **Perspective #3: The instruction of the Bible - God deals with mankind in different ways at different times. It is critical to recognize how God divides His word.**

You must see how God has dealt differently with man over time. Some places in the Bible deal specifically with the Nation of Israel. Other places, the Church. How can you know and recognize who and when? By **STUDYING**:

2 Timothy 2:15 - **Study** to shew thyself approved unto God, a **workman** that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing** the word of truth.

- Interestingly, almost all other versions of the Bible remove "study" and replace it with "work hard", "do your best", "be diligent to present yourself", "make every effort", etc.
- How can you rightly divide the word of God without studying it???? THAT is the work!  
If you wrongly divide it, you SHOULD BE \_\_\_\_\_!

## HOW DOES GOD DIVIDE HIS WORD?

1. Times and \_\_\_\_\_ – Daniel 2:21; Ecc. 3:1-8; Acts 1:7; 1 Thess. 5:1; Heb. 1:1-2.
  - a. Church Ages - Revelation 2-3. (7 letters to 7 churches each covering a period in history)
  - b. Times of ignorance – Acts 17:30.
  - c. Times of the Gentiles – Luke 21:24.
  - d. Times of refreshing – Acts 3:19.
  - e. Times of restitution – Acts 3:21.
  - f. Fullness of times – Eph. 1:10.
2. **Dispensations** - Eph 1:10, 3:2-3; Col 1:25-26; 1 Cor 9:17.

## RIGHTLY DIVIDING THROUGH DISPENSATIONS

**Dispensation** = Distribution: The manner in which God deals out (dispenses) His grace/truth in specific ways to specific people. An economy or way of doing things; a certain administration. That which is dispensed or bestowed.

**KEY POINTS** It does **NOT** simply mean “a period of time.”

The greatest and most obvious dispensations in the Bible: The Old and \_\_\_\_\_.

**POP QUIZ:** Are these verses Old or New Testament?

	<b>OT</b>	<b>NT</b>
Isaiah 61:2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Romans 3:23	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 24:3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Malachi 4:6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**KEY POINTS** The \_\_\_\_\_ period does NOT define the dispensation, it’s the other way around! – Hebrews 9:11-17.

**KEY POINTS** **Times and dispensations can be divided within a book, chapter, verse, or PART of a verse!!** Isaiah 61:1-2 ↔ Luke 4:17-21

## LOCATING THE DISPENSATIONS

One of the easiest and most effective ways to find the dispensations in the Bible is by looking at the covenants God makes with man.

Covenant = A mutual consent or agreement of two or more persons, to do or to forbear some act or thing; a contract; stipulation. The promise of God to man.

NOTE: “They often have more than one part to them and can overlap others, skip time periods, or show up in the middle of others. They ALL deal with a chosen people in a chosen nation given a chosen place on the earth to setup an eternal kingdom which will be visible, material, political, and Messianic.” Dispensations can have a similar effect.

## The Covenants

1. Edenic: Genesis 1:28-2:17.
2. Adamic: Genesis 3:14-19; 4:1-7.
3. Noahic: Genesis 8:20-9:17.
4. Abrahamic: Genesis 12,15, 17.
5. Mosaic: Exodus 19-24, 31-34.
6. Davidic: 2 Samuel 7:4-17; Ps. 89:3-4, 36-37; Isaiah 9:7.
7. Palestinian: Deut. 29-30:1-10.
8. New (Eternal, Eternity): Matt. 26:28; Heb. 8:7-13 -> Jer. 31:31-37.

NOTE: This will help us find \_\_\_\_\_ of the dispensations. There are more dispensations we will find by searching the scriptures and seeing how God operates differently.

**KEY POINTS** You CANNOT have proper \_\_\_\_\_ of the scriptures without knowing the dispensation!

## DANGERS OF WRONGLY DIVIDING

"Since properly understanding the Bible's divisions is the key to being sound in doctrine and making sense of its differences, failure to do so can lead to dangerous heresies and spiritual chaos. When a preacher or any other believer fails to rightly divide the Bible and discern its differences, he will nearly always end up wresting it. This is one reason there are so many "Christian" cults today. Instead of rightly dividing the Bible, they ignore some or all of its divisions and produce a religious system that is littered with heresies, some of them deadly. When a person takes a precept or doctrine peculiar to one dispensation and forces it to apply doctrinally to another, he ends up with a heresy every time."

*T. Morton*

### Examples of wrongly dividing:

1. OT and NT salvation are exactly the same.
2. Baptism is not needed for today (Church Age).
3. Grace only exists in the NT.
4. The Church will be raptured during or after the tribulation.
5. A NT, church age believer can lose their salvation.

**Hyper-Dispensationalists** – They "over divide" the scriptures meaning they tend to make divisions where there are \_\_\_\_\_. This is how they wind up with many of the false doctrines listed above including wrongly dividing God's Church and Paul's mission.

RESULT:

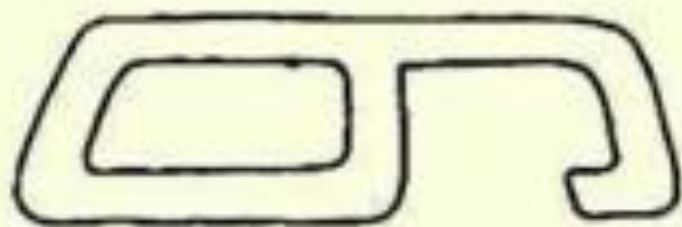
- Hyper-dispensationalists reject water baptism.
- They follow absolute discontinuity between testaments, believing that none of the Old Testament applies or is binding on Christians today.
- They view the start of the Christian church as beginning with the ministry of the Apostle Paul after the early part of the book of Acts OR some after Acts 28.
- They say there is a difference and division between Jewish Church (early Acts) and Gentile Church. (No body of Christ or Church before Paul.)

**KEY POINTS** We must always see the \_\_\_\_\_ of what God is doing at any moment in the Bible!



Tim Henschel

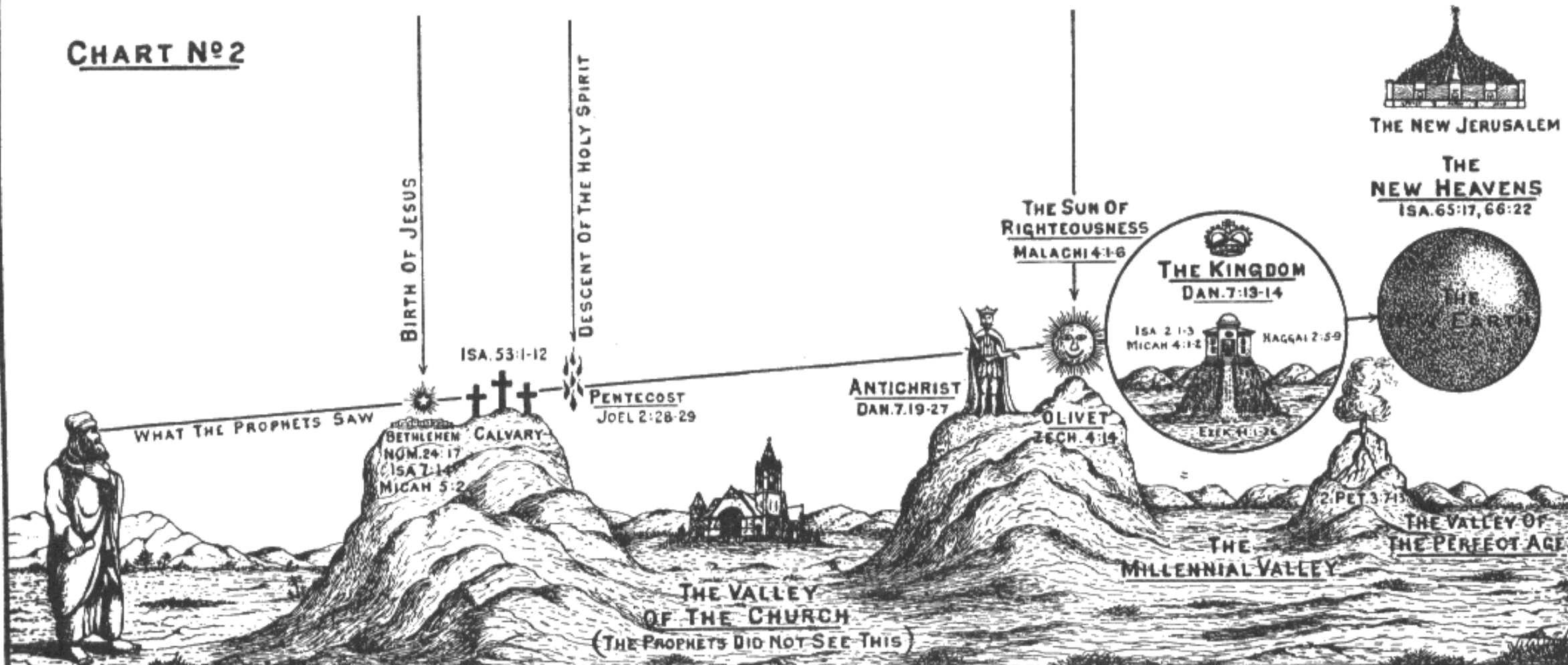
**SIX**



**NINE**



**CHART N°2**



**THE OLD TESTAMENT VALLEY**  
THE VIEW-POINT OF THE PROPHETS

**OUR VIEW-POINT**  
WE SEE THE "MOUNTAIN PEAKS" AND "VALLEYS" FROM THE SIDE  
AND SO CAN SEPARATE THE FIRST AND SECOND COMING PROPHECIES

**THE "MOUNTAIN PEAKS" OF PROPHECY**

DESIGNED AND DRAWN BY  
GLARENCE LARKIN  
FOXCHASE, PHIL'A. PA  
COPYRIGHTED



# THE "TIMES" AND "SEASONS"

ACTS 1:7

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

ACTS 17:26

26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

## "TIME PAST"

HEB. 1:1

GOD, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

### "TIMES OF IGNORANCE"

ACTS 17:29-30

29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

### "WITHOUT LAW"

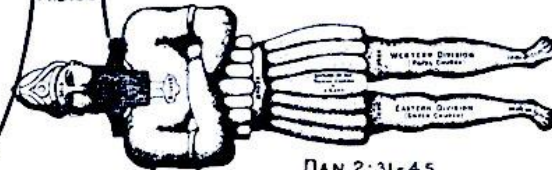
ROM. 2:12

12 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law; and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;

EDEN

MOSES

BC 606



DAN 2:31-45

## "LAST DAYS"

HEB. 1:2

2 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;

ACTS 3:20

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

REVELATION  
1 THESS. 5:7-10

### "TIMES OF THE GENTILES"

LUKE 21:24

24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

### "TIMES OF RESTITUTION"

ACTS 3:19

19 ¶ Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

THE  
MILLENNIUM

ISA. 35:1-10

### "FULNESS OF TIMES"

EPH 1:10

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

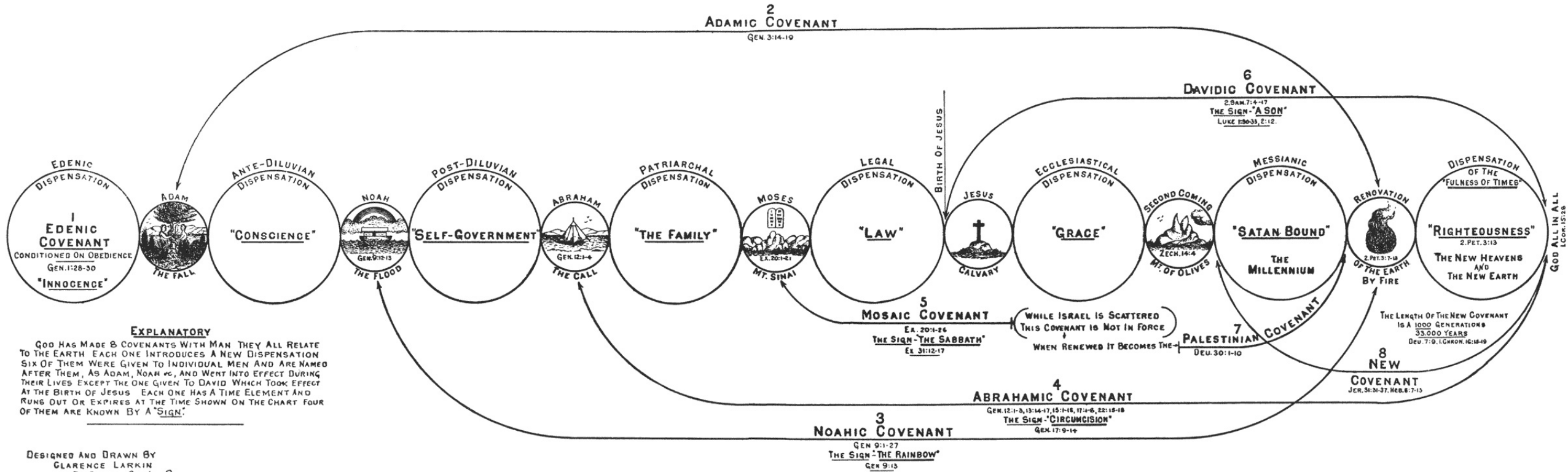
THE  
NEW EARTH

ACTS 3:21

21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.



# THE COVENANTS



**EXPLANATORY**

GOD HAS MADE 8 COVENANTS WITH MAN THEY ALL RELATE TO THE EARTH EACH ONE INTRODUCES A NEW DISPENSATION SIX OF THEM WERE GIVEN TO INDIVIDUAL MEN AND ARE NAMED AFTER THEM, AS ADAM, NOAH, &c, AND WENT INTO EFFECT DURING THEIR LIVES EXCEPT THE ONE GIVEN TO DAVID WHICH TOOK EFFECT AT THE BIRTH OF JESUS EACH ONE HAS A TIME ELEMENT AND RUNS OUT OR EXPIRES AT THE TIME SHOWN ON THE CHART FOUR OF THEM ARE KNOWN BY A "SIGN".

DESIGNED AND DRAWN BY  
CLARENCE LARKIN  
FOXCHASE, PHILA., PA.  
MAY 1916  
COPYRIGHTED



