

Dispensations:

The Key to Rightly Dividing God's Word



The Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Concerning 2 Kingdoms

Names: 1st Coming of Christ. 1st Advent.

Scripture: Matthew – Acts 7.

Covenant: Davidic (start of fulfillment...put on hold)

Key events to know:

1. Key transitions.
2. The 2 kingdoms.
3. God's timeline.
4. The establishment and transition of the church.

Dispensation	Covenant	Description
Eternity Past	None	Original creation. Lucifer & angels.
Innocence	Edenic	Reconstruction of earth. Creation of man.
Conscience	Adamic	Adam's lineage and sons of God.
Human government	Noahic	Noah's flood and lineage.
Promise	Abrahamic	Abraham's seed and birth of nation of Israel
Law-Kingdom	Mosaic	Moses leading the exodus, the giving of the law, the kingdom's rise & fall
	Davidic	The line and Kingdom of David
Christ's 1st coming	Davidic*	<i>This overlaps the dispensation of law & times of Gentiles</i>

KEY TRANSITIONS

This is probably one of the most important dispensations of them all, yet it is often overlooked! This typically gets lumped in with the church age dispensation and therefore a lot of bad doctrine is the result because clear transitions are missed! In order to rightly divide our current age and dispensation, 3 key transitions here must be noted and understood:

1. Old Testament to New Testament.
2. The Church: from Jewish to _____ oversight.
3. The law to grace.

2 KINGDOMS

1. **Kingdom of Heaven** – the _____ kingdom of Israel and Jesus Christ. It is equated with God's reign through the kings of Israel in the Old Testament and will be restored and ruled forever by the Lord Jesus Christ (Davidic covenant) – Exodus 19:6; 2 Sam. 7:12-16.
2. **Kingdom of God** - the _____ kingdom of God in Jesus Christ. The kingdom of God is present through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the believer – Matt. 6:33; Luke 17:20-21.

These 2 kingdoms were designed to be present together (Gen. 1:26) and Jesus, as the King of both, is here to restore them! The Old Testament ends with the Kingdom of Heaven temporarily removed from the Jew due to their disobedience. Note how the book of Matthew begins:

- John the Baptist: he is the prophesied messenger sent to prepare the way of the LORD (Is. 40:3; Mal. 3:1). He preaches "the kingdom of heaven is at hand" – Matt. 3:2.
- Jesus Christ: He begins with preaching "the kingdom of heaven is at hand" – Matt. 4:17; 5-7. When He sends out the 12 disciples to preach, their message is "the kingdom of heaven is at hand" – Matt. 10:7.

Matthew Outline

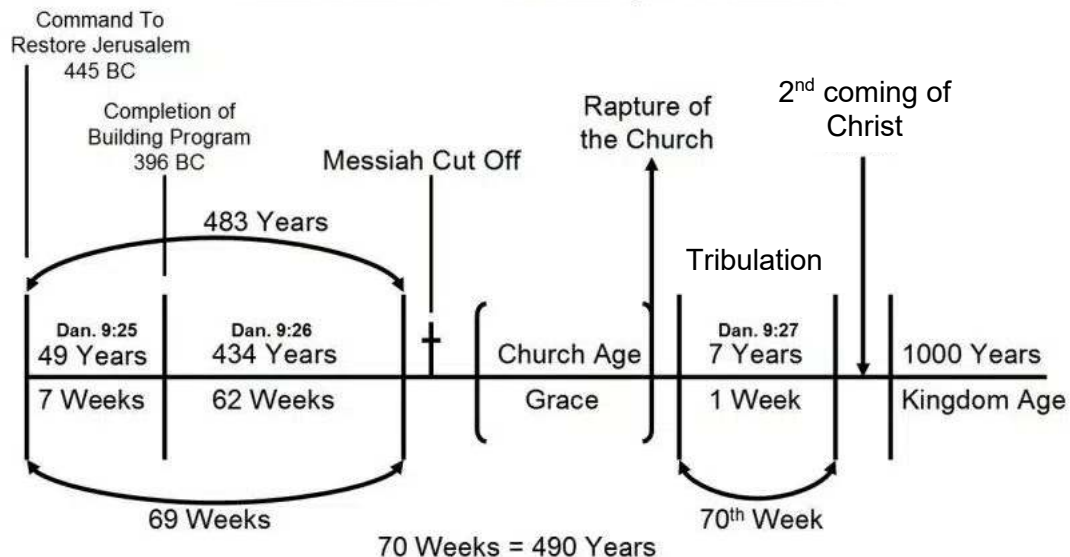
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| <u>1-2:</u> The genealogy of the King. | <u>10:</u> The Kingdom preached. 12 sent. |
| <u>3:</u> John the Baptist announces the King. | <u>11-12:</u> The rejection of the King. |
| <u>4:</u> The proving of the King (temptation by Satan). | <u>13-25:</u> Kingdom in mystery form – parables. |
| <u>5-7:</u> The constitution of the Kingdom. | <u>26-27:</u> Arrest, trial, crucifixion of the King. |
| <u>8-9:</u> The credentials of the King. | <u>28:</u> The resurrection of the King. |

King: 20 times. **Kingdom:** _____ times. (more than any other gospel and the only one to mention Kingdom of Heaven)

GOD'S TIMELINE

Why are John the Baptist and Jesus preaching the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand when it still has not happened yet? We find the answer where God reveals to Daniel His timeline of human history in Daniel 9:24-27:

Daniel's Seventy Weeks



The Church Age is a _____ in God's timeline...a pause in the countdown. Why? Because the nation of Israel has rejected their Messiah and King! It should not be there and would not be had Israel received Jesus as Lord. Taking that gap away, preaching that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand was absolutely correct! Everything was set for this kingdom to return, and one day, it will!

THE ESTABLISHMENT AND TRANSITION OF THE CHURCH

The church – the "body of Christ". The saved multitudes from every nation, tribe, and tongue. This body, however, *cannot be physically observed* by the world in its *entirety* – 1 Cor. 12:11-31.

The local church - a body of men and women who have been saved and called by God to serve in a specific geographic area. The world can then physically observe the "body of Christ" as it is exemplified on this local level – Acts 8:1, 11:19; Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, etc.

Notes from Acts 1-7:

<u>1:7</u> – Restore AGAIN THE kingdom to Israel.	<u>2:39</u> – To the <u>JEW</u> (Davidic covenant, Mosaic covenant, Abrahamic covenant).
<u>2:4</u> – Fulfillment of Christ’s promise that they will be baptized with the Holy Ghost. (1:5)	<u>2:41-47</u> – Many <u>Jews</u> get saved and are added to the CHURCH (body). There is a local church which has started in Jerusalem (8:1).
<u>2:5</u> – <u>Jews</u> are present who had come from many nations.	<u>3:12, 25</u> – Still a <u>Jewish</u> audience.
<u>2:7-9, 11</u> – These are known languages.	<u>4:8-14</u> – Peter preaches Christ to the Jewish leadership . They reject it and command them not to preach anymore.
<u>2:10</u> – Again, only Jews present: by birth and conversion.	<u>5:11-14</u> – The CHURCH is growing.
<u>2:11-12</u> – <u>Jews</u> require a sign, at this time, to verify the message is from God – 1 Cor. 1:22, 14:22; Deut. 18:21. John 2:18.	<u>5:17-32</u> – Apostles imprisoned for preaching. Another witness to the leadership by Peter .
<u>2:16-21</u> – Peter quotes Joel 2:28-32 referencing the end times and that this is the beginning*.	<u>6:7</u> – The word of God and disciples increase with even Priests getting saved.
<u>2:22</u> – Signs confirmed who Jesus was.	<u>7</u> – Stephen preaches the gospel to the Jewish leadership . They reject it and kill him.
<u>2:38</u> – Baptism of repentance for <u>Israel</u> as they had crucified their Messiah.	

* On God’s timeline it would have been.

After Acts 7 we see a change when Israel has rejected their King after hearing 4 different witnesses:

1. John the Baptist – they killed him.
2. Jesus Christ – they killed him.
3. Peter – they killed him (64-68 AD about at the end of the events in Acts)
4. Stephen – they killed him.

Starting in Acts 8, we see the church shifting to the Gentiles to carryout God’s mission.

Like Matthew, Acts is a _____ book:

- From Jew to Gentile.
- From the Nation of Israel to the Church.
- From the Kingdom of Heaven to the Kingdom of God.
- From Peter to Paul.
- From the church in Jerusalem to the church in Antioch.

KEY POINTS

You must not take things out of place! Do not apply something to you that is specifically to the Jew! Our current church age doctrine is contained in the book that follows: **Romans!**

DANGERS OF WRONGLY DIVIDING

- “Charismatics” will use Acts 2 as a basis for speaking in tongues in today’s church. However, they will often practice it using strange, unknown, and sometimes unintelligible “language”. As we have clearly seen in this chapter, tongues are a known language that is foreign to the speaker of it but is the first or natural language of the audience. This also was a specific sign to the unbelieving _____ at this particular time to verify that Peter was indeed God’s messenger preaching God’s message – 1 Cor. 14:22, 1:22; John 2:18; Deut. 18:21-22.
- Baptism for salvation is another false doctrine taken out of context from Acts 2:38 and misapplied to Gentiles. This baptism was specifically for the Nation of Israel because they crucified their Messiah – 2:36-37, 39! Notice salvation still preceded this baptism – 2:41, 44, 47.