

Dispensations:

The Key to Rightly Dividing God's Word

Moses, the Law, the Rise and Fall of the Kingdom

Names: Dispensation of the Law. Legal dispensation. The Kingdom.

Scripture: Exodus – Malachi.

Covenant: Mosaic.

Key events to know:

1. The Mosaic covenant.
2. The rise & fall of the Kingdom and the Davidic covenant.
3. The times of the Gentiles.

In the dispensation of Promise, we last saw the Jew, God's chosen people, down in Egypt where they will multiply and be fortified as a people (nation). It is now time for them to come out of that place and inherit the land God promised. There is a tough battle ahead! But before they can move forward, God establishes another covenant with them, and this one will be the most difficult of them all. It's one that shows mankind just how high God's standards really are and that it is _____ for anyone to live up to.

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

THE MOSAIC COVENANT

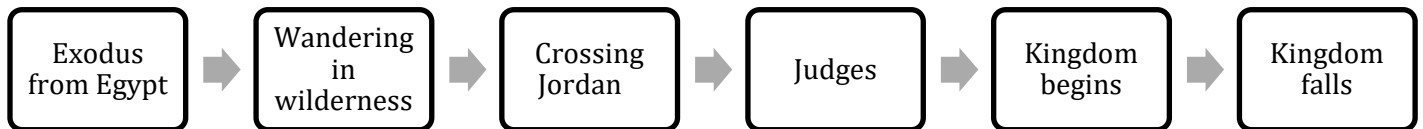
- 3 main parts to the covenant:
 - The Moral Law – Ex. 20:1-17; Deut. 5:7-21. The 10 commandments.
 - The Civil & Judicial Law – Ex. 21-24. Judicial system, punishment of crimes, servants, property, personal actions.
 - The Ceremonial Law – Ex. 25-40. Details of sacrifice, worship, the Tabernacle, Ark of the Covenant, the priests, offerings.

NOTE: Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy will reveal more requirements and details.

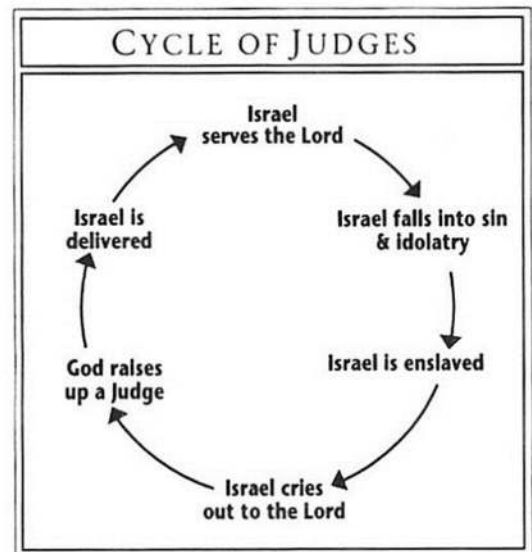
KEY POINTS

- This covenant is _____ requiring obedience on the part of Israel for God to do His part – Ex. 19:3-5; Deut. 8:19-20.
- Notice the **dispensation** (how God desires to dispense His law): through a _____ – Ex. 19:6! This will be further solidified by the Davidic covenant.
- All the people agree to the covenant – Ex. 19:8, 24:7.
- This covenant also has a sign: the Sabbath and 2 tables of stone – Ex. 31:13-17.
- This covenant is between **God and the Jew!** The law, doctrinally speaking and as given in Exodus and Deuteronomy, is binding on the Jew and they are judged according to their observance of it! Certainly, the moral law is FOR us and profitable and also found in some form in the New Testament (minus the sabbath) making it applicable to born again believers today! But we must always remember to keep the proper perspective – Rom. 2:14-15; e.g. – Gen. 20 (Abimelech).

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE KINGDOM



- Exodus from Egypt after 400 years in bondage. The Passover (Ex. 12). The dividing of the Red Sea (Ex. 14). (see Psalm 78)
- An _____ journey turned into 40 years of wandering – Deut. 1:1-3! Notice while Israel was in Egypt the Devil restocked the Promised Land with sons of God again. He is fighting against God’s people trying to keep the land and it worked for 40 years – Numbers 13:1-33; Deut. 3:11. **NOTE:** they had the manpower and God’s blessing to take the land, but they did NOT have the courage or faith (2 Tim. 1:7) so God had to let an entire generation die!
- Joshua, who was one of two who previously wanted to take the land, now leads the next generation of Israelites to conquer the promised land “crossing over” the Jordan river and where they get the name “Hebrews” – Joshua 3-4. (Abraham crossed the Euphrates river to get to Canaan – Gen. 12) By the end of the book of Joshua, Israel has roughly 85% of the Promised Land. Note how God always uses Satan’s own plans against him – Joshua 24:13!
- Judges were raised up for Israel before they get an earthly king. It is a time of testing and proving and once again, man is defeated by his own sinful flesh. Here the cycle of sin is repeatedly seen. Israel moves away from God, and He sends a nation to persecute them. They cry out to God for help, and He sends a deliverer (one of the judges: Samson, Gideon, Jephthah, Deborah to name a few). They serve God for a while and then the cycle repeats – Judges 1-21. Note the events of the book of Ruth occur somewhere during this time.



The Establishment of the Kingdom of _____

Remember the theme of the Bible: a _____ and His _____. God has been working since Genesis 1 to establish His kingdom and Satan, along with man’s sin, keeps getting in the way. We have seen how God chose a specific people, through the seed of Abraham, to establish that kingdom through which the Messiah would be born. A kingdom through which all the nations and families of the earth would be blessed. A kingdom of priests carrying the word of the Lord to the lost world. An example of what obedience to God looks like and the blessing that it brings. But right at the start, man corrupts that image. Instead of having God as their King, they want to be like everyone else – 1 Sam. 8:5-22. A decision that will shorten their success and eventually have that kingdom removed from them...temporarily.

Summary Outline:

1 Samuel: David and Saul. Removal of Saul as king and establishment of David as king.

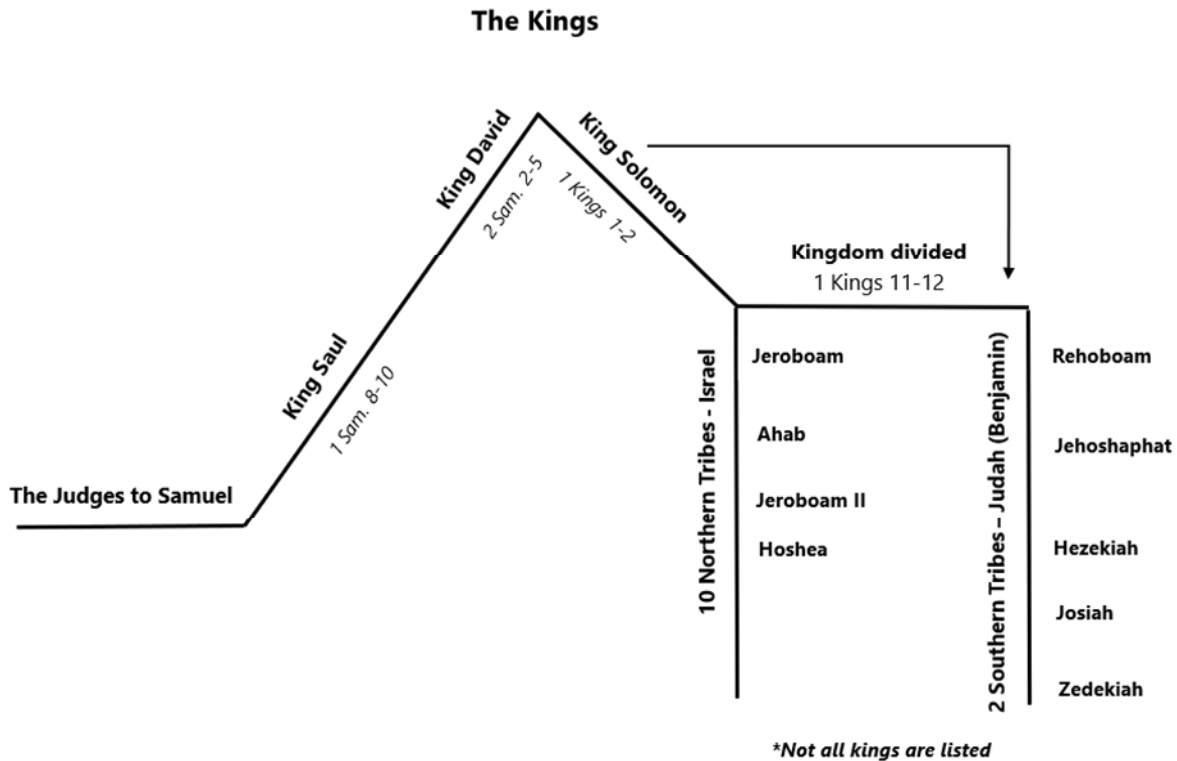
2 Samuel: Life of David and his trials (Bathsheba, Absalom, etc).

1 Kings: After David's death through Solomon and dividing of nation.

2 Kings: Focuses on 10 Northern Tribes.

1 Chronicles: David as a type of Christ.

2 Chronicles: Focuses on 2 Southern Tribes.



- David is the greatest king in Israel's history. He conquers the remaining enemies of Israel reclaiming all the Promised Land and kills the last of the giants. **KEY:** Kingdom is basically established as God promised!
- Solomon's reign was a time of rest and peace. His weakness of being a womanizer gets the best of him and his many foreign wives turn his heart away from the Lord – 1 Kings 11:1-6. This is the beginning of their idolatry and downfall.

The Davidic Covenant

Tucked away in the middle of the Mosaic covenant and dispensation of the law, is a special and unconditional covenant God makes with King David:

- David's house (descendants) will never be destroyed – 2 Sam. 7:11.
- David's kingdom shall never be destroyed – 2 Sam. 7:12-14. His son Solomon will have a part in this, but he is ultimately punished for walking away from God just as was promised in verse 14.
- This house, kingdom and throne will be established forever – 2 Sam. 7:16.

Where Solomon fails, the Lord Jesus Christ will succeed and fulfill this covenant FOREVER – Luke 1:30-33! Note that this will begin after the chastisement of Israel is completed (tribulation) with Christ coming to physically reign on the throne of David on earth (the millennium).

The Fall of the Kingdom

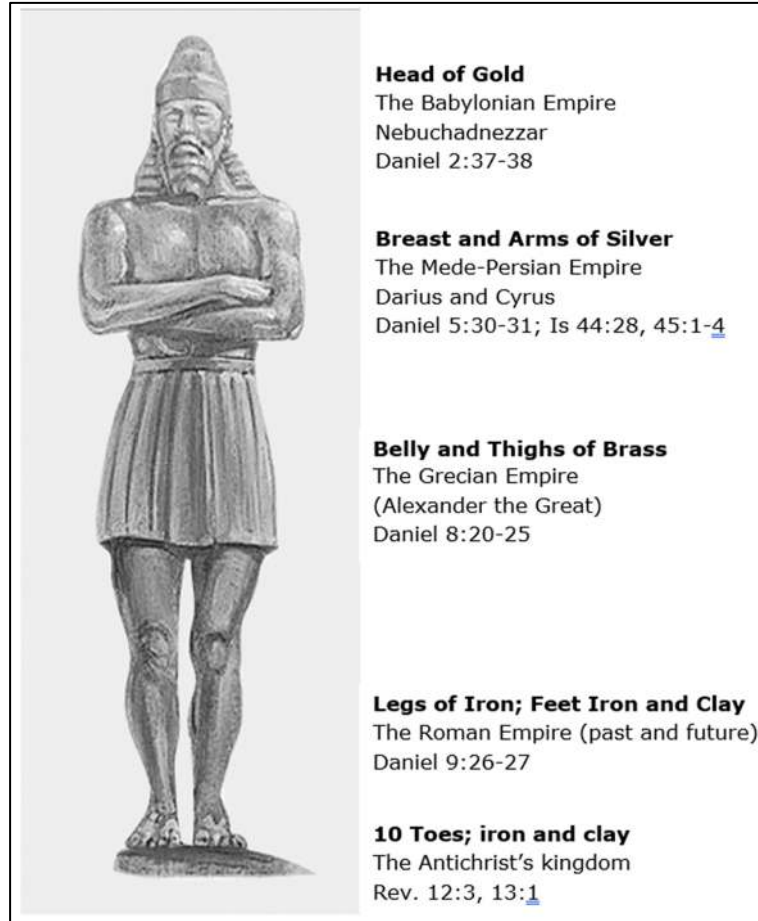
- The kingdom splits because of Rehoboam – 1 Kings 11-12.
- Idolatry begins with Solomon and continues throughout both kingdoms. God, His word, the law and commandments are tossed aside and Israel looks like a heathen nation.
- Israel (both kingdoms) has several chances to repent as God sends His _____ to warn of coming judgement: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Micah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah. Most of Israel hated the prophets – Matthew 23:37.
- There are a few exceptions and a few kings who put Israel back on track but by then it is too late. God has had enough and will wipe Israel “as a man wipeth a dish turning it upside down” – 2 Kings 21:12-16.
- Around 725 BC the king of Assyria, Shalmaneser, invades and takes captive the 10 northern tribes. They never return – 2 Kings 17. Around 606 BC, Nebuchadnezzar takes captive the last 2 tribes. The books of Ezekiel, Daniel, and Obadiah are written about this time.

The Kingdom of Heaven has now been removed from the Jew for their disobedience, as God said He would do. It will return as promised, but now enters a time that continues to this very day...

THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES

Luke 21:24

God, at this point, essentially turns the world over to the Gentile nations as is prophesied in the book of Daniel. Most people focus on the book of Daniel with Revelation in mind, but its main purpose is to show the _____ nations that will be in power from the beginning of this time until the 2nd coming of Christ.



The 400 Years of Silence

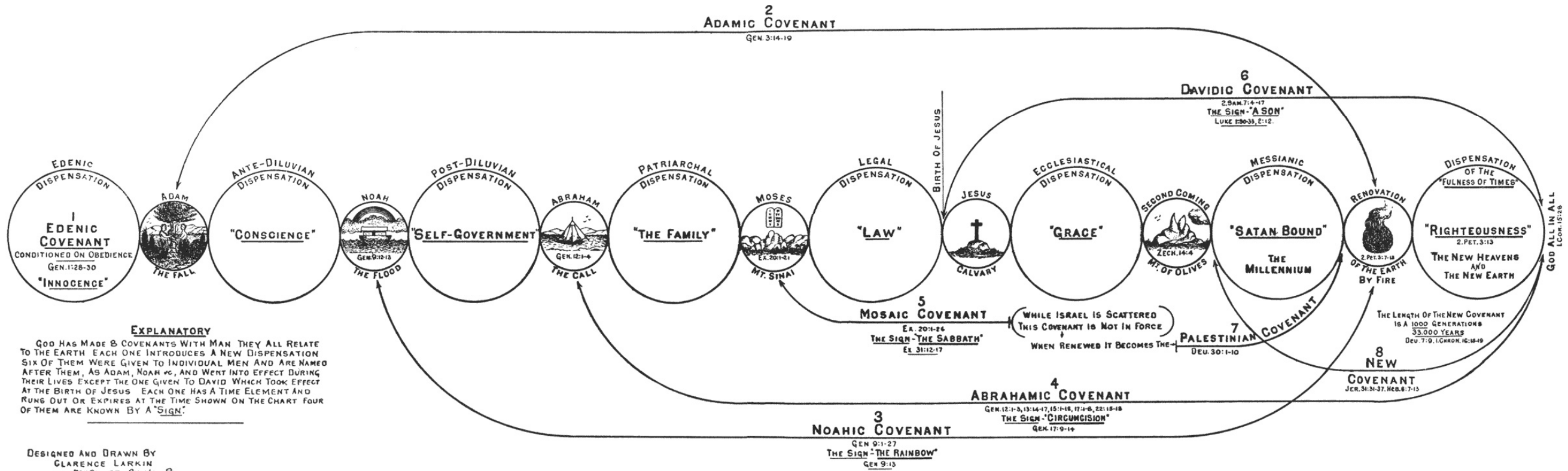
Following the 70 years of captivity in Babylon and after the remaining books of the Old Testament are written, there are 400 years of silence from God. There are no books of the Bible written. **There are no new revelations from God. He is not talking to anyone.** This is the period of time between Malachi and the birth of Christ. Mankind does have the books of the OT to guide him.

The Devil, seeing opportunity, is hard at work during this time:

- Along with the Gentile nations in power, Satan begins to flood the world with their different philosophies and teachings. The Greeks had a major influence that can still be felt to this day: Aristotle, Socrates, Plato – _____ philosophy.
- The Greeks will take the OT and mix it with Babylonian and Egyptian knowledge in an effort to contradict and counteract the word of God. The **corrupt** Septuagint is created which is hailed by modern "scholars" and so called "Bible experts" in our current time. It is the officially recognized Old Testament translation of the Roman Catholic Church.
- He continues to flood the Promised Land with his "own people". The Samaritans are planted in the land to breed out the Jew – 2 Kings 17.
- The Pharisees and Sadducees pop up during this time. These "religious" men will give Jesus a lot of trouble and ultimately are behind his crucifixion. They also make deals with Rome to exercise their authority over their own people.
- The Apocrypha, 14 books found in the Catholic Bible, are written. While they have some historical value, they are plagued with errors and were never considered to be scripture by believers.
- Many false religions start or grow during this time: Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Hinduism, to name a few.

What the Devil is doing during this time is to flood the world with Gentile people, nations, and _____ to counteract God's plan. This plan took the Kingdom away from Israel, and it keeps many people from finding the Kingdom today. All of these things will be established and in place, waiting for the first arrival of Christ.

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 & NOAH, 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".

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