

Dispensations:

The Key to Rightly Dividing God's Word

The Reconstruction of Earth and Beginning of Mankind

Names: Edenic Dispensation, Dispensation of Innocence.

Scripture: Genesis 1:3-3:24

Covenants: Edenic

Key events to know:

1. Reconstruction of Heaven and Earth.
2. Creation of mankind.
3. The Edenic covenant with mankind.
4. The fall of mankind

As we enter into this 2nd dispensation, the heaven and the earth have been flooded due to Lucifer's rebellion and fall. Exactly how much time has passed between these 2 dispensations, no one knows. What we are about to see, however, is the start of time for _____ beginning with the 6 days of creation/re-creation detailed in Genesis 1. The Bible will give us more clues here as to what was happening before, and it won't be long until that "past" comes looking for trouble with God's newest and most special creation.

RECONSTRUCTION OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

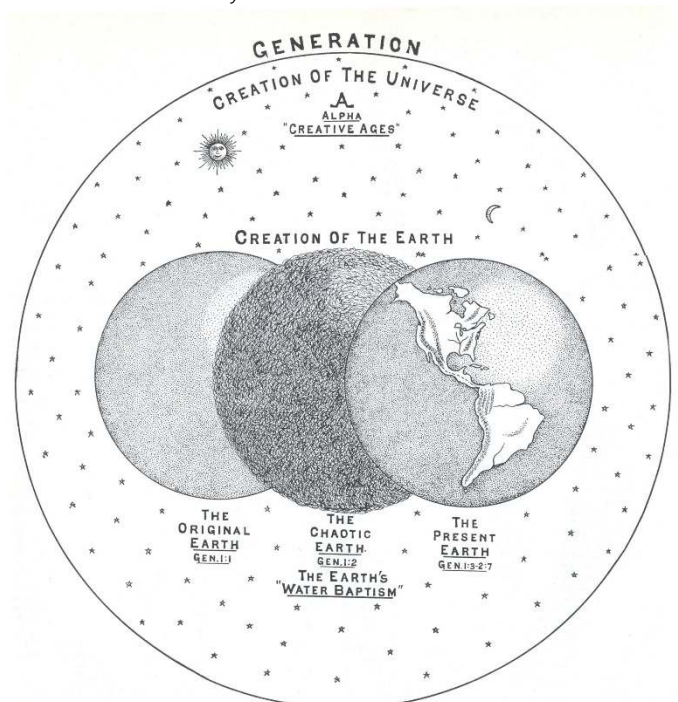
Day 1 – Gen. 1:3-5

- This light is NOT the sun or moon (made on day 4), this is the very light of God Himself – 1 John 1:5. Note the capitalization: Day, Night. Darkness representing Satan, the absence of light – Acts 26:18. This is one of the most obvious divisions we see every day representing good and evil.
- God commands his light to shine through the darkness of those waters – 2 Cor. 4:6.

Day 2 – Gen. 1:6-8

- God begins to fix the universal flood by _____ the waters with a firmament He calls Heaven. This is the 2nd heaven (outer space) in the 3-heaven structure.
- Note: there are waters ABOVE this firmament dividing it from the 3rd heaven (God's throne) – Ps. 148:4. Likely the reason this is the only day God does not see as good (Gen. 1:8). See Figures 1-3.

By Clarence Larkin circa 1918



Day 3 – Gen. 1:9-13

- Now that outer space has been cleared of water, God gathers the waters flooding the surface of the earth to one place. Note that He does that by having the dry land _____ (not created or made)! This gathering of the waters makes up our oceans.
- Note that God says “*let the earth bring forth*” all the vegetation (grass, trees, etc.). Did God plant the first seeds in the earth (“whose seed is in itself) or were they already there from Gen. 1:1?? (See Ezekiel 31:8-9)
- *after his kind* – a pattern after the Lord Jesus Christ. Think about the significance of 3 in the Bible and another event that would happen on the *third day* that would bring forth new life!

Day 4 – Gen. 1:14-19

- God *made* two great lights...he *made* the stars also. Remember the difference between *created* and *made*. Did he make/restore these from something existing?
- *Signs for seasons, days, and years*: Next month (Feb. 2024) is a leap year where an extra day is added to the calendar. Why? Because it takes the earth 365.25 days to orbit the sun. Therefore, we add a day to our calendar every _____ years!

Day 5 – Gen. 1:20-23

- Fish, fowl, and whales are specifically mentioned as being created. “Great whales” – largest animal on the earth.

Day 6 – Gen. 1:24-31

- *Let the earth bring forth* – just like the vegetation! All life on earth is carbon based and made of cells. Carbon bonds with other elements like hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, etc. Living things are made up of the same elements found in the _____ and water.

KEY POINTS When it comes to creation and science, **ALWAYS TRUST YOUR BIBLE!** (Jer. 31:35)

CREATION OF MANKIND

Gen. 1:26-31

- God completes His 6 days of work with His most special creation – man. Notice how mankind is unique:
 - Mankind is made in the very image and likeness of God: 3 parts, body, soul, spirit (Heb. 4:12) → God the Father, Son, Holy Spirit.
 - Mankind is given dominion over all the earth.
 - Mankind was created to have a special _____ with God – speech, thought, reasoning, emotions, feelings, desires...all designed to be drawn to the Creator!
 - God Himself breathed life into mankind.
- God gives mankind a special mission: _____ the earth - *To fill; to stock with numbers or abundance. To build up again. To recover former fullness.* This is the 1st time the word replenish shows up in the Bible (1:28). It is not used in regards to any other created life in these 6 days (note that “fill” is used in 1:22). The word is only used twice in the Bible and the second time it shows up is right after Noah’s flood in Gen. 9:1.
 - Replenish what? Adam, a newly created son of God (Luke 3:38), along with his wife Eve are to replenish the “sons of God” that fell with Lucifer. God desires to fill the earth with sons

who will love, honor, and worship Him just as the ones who were created before were supposed to do. Mankind, however, is created "a little lower than the angels" – Psalm 8:4-5.

EDENIC COVENANT WITH MANKIND

This dispensation is where we see God's first covenant (agreement, contract) with mankind. It is a conditional covenant: obey, and it remains in place. Disobey, and things change.

- Multiply and replenish the earth – Gen. 1:28.
- Subdue the earth for their use – Gen. 1:28.
- Exercise dominion over the animals - Gen. 1:26, 28.
- Have a vegetarian diet - Gen. 1:29.
- Keep, dress, work the garden God placed them in – Gen. 2:15.
- Abstain from eating the fruit of a single tree – the knowledge of good & evil – Gen. 2:16-17. (the only commandment of these)

It is important to know that this is a dispensation of _____. Adam and Eve were created innocent and are not inclined towards, nor have any desire for, evil or unrighteousness. They are NOT sinners at this point. They do NOT need to be saved. They do NOT require God's grace or mercy. Conversely, they have not yet been _____ in a way which would commend themselves to God either. However, they are about to face the biggest test of their lives...

FALL OF MANKIND

Gen. 3

- That old serpent, the Devil (Rev. 12:9) – formerly known as Lucifer, shows up to work his plan:
 - Stop Adam and Eve and their God given mission to reproduce sons of God.
 - Reclaim the land and throne that were once his. (After the fall of mankind, you will see him go to great lengths to try and keep the land!)
- Though Adam and Eve have only a single commandment (of omission) to obey, Satan successfully deceives them with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the _____ of life – 3:1-6; 1 John 2:16. Mankind is now in a fallen state and the earth is cursed. The covenant God made with them is now broken. God kept His part, man did not keep his – a sad trend we will see throughout history.

DANGERS OF WRONGLY DIVIDING

- Some would believe that salvation today puts you in an equivalent state to Adam in the garden, meaning you are innocent. However, this would mean you could lose your salvation like Adam lost his innocence. (a born-again believer is NOT innocent but IS forgiven!)
- Some claim that Adam and Eve had a "works based salvation" based on the covenant and the work they were given. Remember at this point, they did NOT need to be saved because they were not yet sinners...until they disobeyed God. It was actually a "work" that caused them to fall.
- Others will claim that God set Adam and Eve up for failure on purpose by planting the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden in the first place. It was all part of His plan to deprive man of innocence so He can choose who will be saved and who will not. Depriving man of God's gift of salvation is in reality the work of the cult that spews this false teaching! In Genesis 3:15 God lays out His plan of salvation for ALL who will BELIEVE and _____!

Figure 1

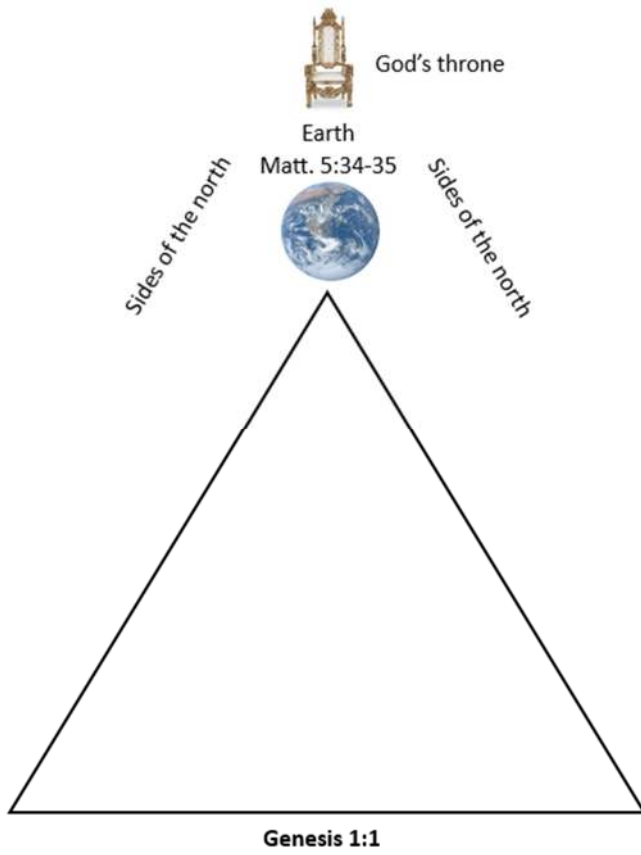


Figure 2

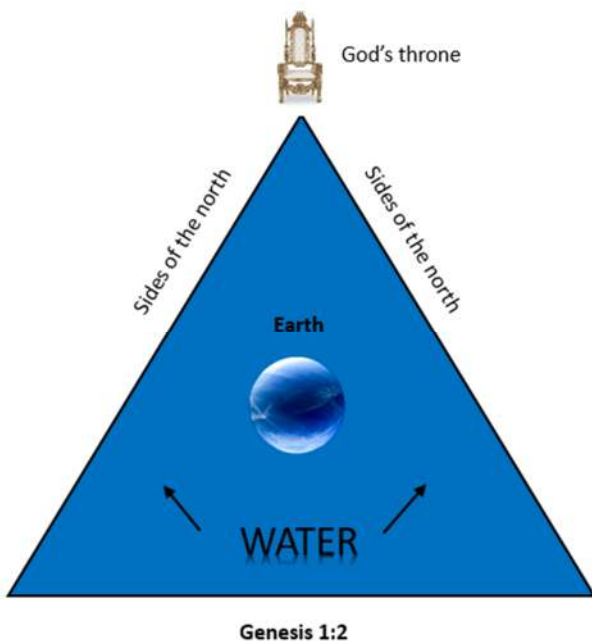


Figure 3

