

STUDY PACK 8

THE DISPENSATIONS

"... Every believer who does not offer animal sacrifices is in a sense a dispensationalist ..."

~ David L. Larsen, *The Company of the Preachers*, p. 601 ~

I. DEFINITION

"A dispensation is a period of time during which man _____."

~ C. I. Scofield ~

II. THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE

A. From the _____,
Gen. 1:26-2:23. (Period of years not known.)

1. This is the innocent or unfallen state when the subjects knew neither good nor evil, being neither holy nor sinful, but being free to choose when good and evil were placed before them.

Adam wasn't righteous because he hadn't chosen good.

Adam wasn't sinful because he hadn't chosen sin.

2. Man was on probation.

B. Man's responsibility, Gen. 2:8-9,16-17. Man must choose whether he will believe God's Word or the statements of Satan.

C. Failure of man, Gen. 3:6.

Man chose to believe Satan rather than God. Satan said, "ye shall be gods - ye shall not surely die." His purpose was _____.

_____ . These same lies of Satan are the foundation of present-day apostasy. Many of the "isms" of the present day can be traced back to the verse which we just quoted Gen. 3:4. Examples are Eddyism - "ye shall be as God"; Russellism - "ye shall not surely die"; Modernism - "yea hath God said."

D. _____ of man's _____, Gen. 3:14-19.

1. Judgment _____.

2. Judgment _____.

3. Judgment _____.

4. Judgment _____.

5. Promise _____ Gen. 3:15.

After viewing all of these judgments, the necessity of the Saviour is seen. Notice in this verse that prophecy had its birth in failure.

- E. Moral condition - one of perfection until sin came in.
- F. Divine mercy, Gen. 3:15 – a promise of victory.

III. THE DISPENSATION OF CONSCIENCE - "WITH KNOWLEDGE"

- A. From the fall of man to the flood-1656 years, Gen. 3-7.

1. Begins with man in a fallen condition - _____.
2. Man is now outside the garden. A _____ is placed at the east of the garden to keep him away.
3. This dispensation shows what happens when man is guided only by his conscience.

- B. Man's responsibility, Gen. 4:7.

He is to choose between doing good and doing evil. He insists on evil. (Gen. 4:7 "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.")

If man had not done good, the sin offering was at the door. (This seems to be the first promise of Christ as a sin offering.)

Cain and Abel were both sinners, but _____.

- C. Failure of man, Gen. 6:5, 11-12.

Man is _____, for we read, "God saw that the wickedness of man was great."

- D. Consequences of man's failure, Gen. 7.

Judgment through the flood.

- E. Moral condition - became worse and worse.

1. Begins with the birth of Cain, made in Adam's likeness, and fallen. All men at the beginning of the dispensation are fallen.

2. Refusal of Cain to make his sacrifice as God commanded (that is, through the shedding of blood) marks the beginning of _____.
3. This is followed by _____.
4. The decline of the race follows.
5. The moral condition becomes pitiful.
6. Destruction of man seems the only to remedy the condition.

F. Divine mercy.

Eight people are saved out of the flood to begin the new dispensation.

IV. THE DISPENSATION OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT

A. From _____ to the _____.
Gen. 8:1-11:9, 427 years.

Noah was a righteous man, the only man, God could find who believed Him, Gen. 8:20; Heb. 11:7. Noah was saved with seven others.

B. Man's responsibility, Gen. 9:1.

Noah was given the same position which Adam occupied in the first dispensation; he was to govern for God. As a responsibility, it has never ended, and it will not end until Christ takes over the government.

Noah was given the power of _____,
Gen. 9:6 – "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed, for in the image of God made He man."

The reason – raising the hand against one created in God's image indicates hatred of God Himself.

C. Failure of man, Gen. 11:1-4.

Unless man can govern himself, he cannot govern others. Noah's downfall, Gen. 9:20-23 (intoxicated).

Building of Tower of Babel.

An organized _____ and _____ against God.

a. Idolatry and apostasy.

- b. Failure comes always from _____ God.
- c. Unification here is shown to become _____. Unity may be all right but God was left out of the picture completely. The only worthwhile unity looks to God.
- d. Man exalts himself. We read the words, "make *us* a tower."

D. Consequences of man's failures, Gen. 11:5-9.

Confusion of _____ and the _____ of the people.

E. Moral condition.

Could not have been worse. It so angered God that He destroyed their plan, through the confusion of tongues.

F. Divine mercy.

God was merciful to them in their idolatry and sought another man who would follow Him.

V. DISPENSATION OF PROMISE

A. _____,
Gen. 11:10-15:21, 430 years.

- 1. His faith began when he left Ur. He became righteous when he believed God's promise concerning his son.
- 2. God's promises and covenants, Gen. 12:1-3, 13:14-17, 15:6.

B. Man's responsibility, Gen. 26:2-3.

- 1. To stay in the land which God gave to him, and not go down into Egypt which is a type of the world.
- 2. Abram doubts God's Word, and when famine comes, he goes to Egypt for food. Abram _____,
because _____.

C. Man's failure, Gen. 47:1.

All of Jacob's house went down into the land of Egypt.

D. Consequences of man's failure, Ex. 1:8-14.

Slavery in Egypt - sin and idolatry.

E. Moral condition.

They turned to the gods of the Egyptians and became idolatrous, Ezek. 20:7-9.

F. Divine Mercy.

Deliverance and preservation of Israel.

VI. DISPENSATION OF LAW

A. From Sinai to Calvary - _____ -1491 years.
Man's condition at the beginning of this dispensation, Ex. 19:1-8. _____
_____. "All that the Lord hath
spoken we will do."

B. Man's responsibility, Ex. 19:5.

To keep the law; includes 10 commandments and all laws, social and civil. These were given to the people of Israel only, Rom. 2:12, 9:4.

C. Man's failure, II Kings 17:7-17, 19; Acts 2:22-23.

They failed to keep the law, and the only One who did keep the law was crucified by them.

D. Consequences of man's failure, II Kings 17:1-6, 20, 25:1-11.

E. Moral condition - Fallen.

F. Divine mercy.

Shown in the fact that judgment upon Jerusalem and on the nation of Israel was withheld for 40 years after the crucifixion.

VII. THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE (THE CHURCH AGE)

A. From the _____ to the _____
_____ - (Acts and Epistles).

Man's state at the beginning - _____, Rom. 3:9-20;
Eph. 2:2. There are two classes of people in the world - _____
_____.

B. Man's responsibility.

To believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, John 3:36; Acts 16:31; John 1:11-13; Rom 4:5, 5:1-2; Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 5:6; Tit. 3:5. Man is not saved by works, _____
_____.

- C. Man's failure.
1. Become lovers of themselves, of money, and of pleasure more than lovers of God, II Tim. 3:1-7.
 2. Having a form of godliness but _____.
 3. Would make God a liar through unbelief, which is the most colossal failure of the dispensations, I John 5:10.
- D. Consequences of man's failures.
- God will give them up to their unbelief, I Tim. 4:1-3; II Tim. 4:3-4; Rom. 1:28.
- E. Moral condition.
- Fallen and sinful.
- F. Divine mercy.
- God has _____.

VIII. THE DISPENSATION OF JUDGMENT OR TRIBULATION

- A. From the rapture of the N.T. believers to the millennium, Rev. 6-9; Dan. 12:1; Jer. 30:7.
- State of man at the beginning, I Thess. 4:16-18.
- a. The believers are taken away, which means there is a generation on earth that does not have in it the "salt" to prevent corruption, II Thess. 2:10-12.
 - b. The Holy Spirit, omnipresent, will still be here to deal with sinners.
- B. Man's responsibility.
- To recognize God and to worship God, Rev. 14:6; Rom. 1:20.
- C. Man's failure.
- The men who are evil will not repent, Rev. 9:20-21, 18:21-24.
- D. Consequences of man's failure.
- Utter destruction, Ps. 2:1-6; Rev. 14:20; Zech. 14:4; Rev. 19:17-21.

E. Moral condition.

A godless group of people from whom all restraint has been taken by removal of the Christians/churches.

D. Divine mercy.

Shown by the _____ Gentiles and _____ Israelites.

IX. THE KINGDOM DISPENSATION, THE MILLENNIUM

A. From _____ to the _____
- 1000 years,
Ps. 2, 11.

B. Man's state at the beginning.

Under the personal reign and rule of Christ, Acts 15:14-17; Ps. 2:6;
Matt. 24:29-30; Isa. 24:23.

B. Man's responsibility.

Obedience and submission to the King, and also to worship Him, Ps. 2:12;
Isa. 65:20; Ps. 67:4, 86:9; Zech. 14:17.

C. Man's failure.

Feigned obedience. Man will follow Satan, Ps. 66:3; Rev. 20:7-9.

D. Consequences of man's failure.

_____, Rev. 20:9.

E. Moral condition.

Fallen and unrepentant.

F. Divine mercy.

God provides _____ and _____.