



UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

THE DOCTRINE OF DISPENSATIONALISM

PRESENTED

AT

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTOR TERRY POOLE

FOR BROTHER JOHNNY POOLE

BY

H. D. WILLIAMS, M.D., Ph.D.

January, 2012



SCRIPTURE

EPHESIANS 1:10; 2:7; 3:1-21

AND

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.”***

For the week of 1/15/2012



JOT AND TITTLE

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DISPENSATIONAL DOCTRINE

Amos 3:3 (KJV):

***Can two walk together,
except they be agreed?***



DISPENSATIONAL DOCTRINE

Proverbs 1:7 (KJV)

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction. (cf. Psa. 19:9, Eph. 3:14-19)

DISPENSATIONAL DOCTRINE

THE OUTLINE

I. SURVEY (OVERVIEW INTERSPERSED)

II. SCRIPTURAL BASIS

a. TERMS (and cognates)

1. OIKONOMIA

2. AION

3. GENEÄ

b. VERSES

III. THE SIGNIFICANCE & NEED



DISPENSATIONAL DOCTRINE

THE OUTLINE

IV. SALVATION IN THE DISPENSATIONS:

1) HOW ARE YOU SAVED IN EACH DISPENSATION?

V. THE SEVEN DISPENSATIONS

1. INNOCENCE (AGE OF LIBERTY)
2. CONSCIENCE (AGE OF HUMAN DETERMINATION)
3. GOVERNMENT
4. PROMISE (PATRIARCHAL)
5. LAW
6. GRACE (CHURCH)
7. KINGDOM (MILLENNIAL)

(AGES TO COME) (SEE Eph. 2:7; 3:5, 21; Psa. 41:13; Isa. 60:15; 1Tim. 1:17; Rev. 22:3-5)



THE BIBLE

“BAPTIST FAITH IS INSEPARABLE FROM OUR BIBLE.”

“THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU LOVE THE BIBLE IS DETERMINED BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU ARE WILLING TO DEFEND IT.”

“IF THE BIBLE IS NOT TRUE NOTHING MATTERS; BUT, IF THE BIBLE IS TRUE, THEN NOTHING ELSE MATTERS.”



SCRIPTURE

EPHESIANS 1:1-14

AND

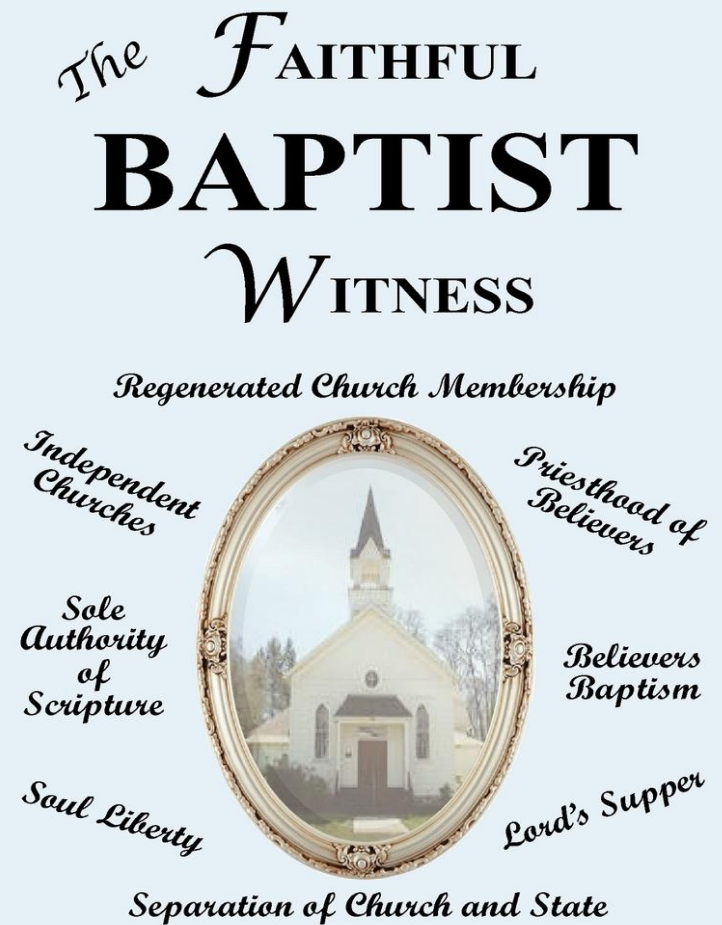
2 TIMOTHY 2:15

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

For the week of 1/8/2011

BAPTIST DISTINCTIVES

1. SOLE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE
2. SOUL LIBERTY
3. SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE
4. INDEPENDENT CHURCHES
5. PRIESTHOOD OF BELIEVERS
6. BELIEVERS BAPTISM
7. LORD'S SUPPER



Dr. Phil Stringer



THE USE OF THE WORD IN SCRIPTURE

A. “DISPENSATION” IS USED FOUR TIMES IN THE KJB NEW TESTAMENT.

1. 1 Cor. 9:17

“For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation *of the gospel* is committed unto me.”



THE USE OF THE WORD IN SCRIPTURE

A. IT IS USED FOUR TIMES IN THE KJB
NEW TESTAMENT.

2. Ephesians 1:10

“That in the dispensation of the fulness
of times he might gather together in
one all things in Christ, both which
are in heaven, and which are on
earth; *even* in him:” (cf. Gal. 3:16, 4:4)

THE USE OF THE WORD IN SCRIPTURE

**A. IT IS USED FOUR TIMES IN THE KJB
NEW TESTAMENT.**

3. Ephesians 3:2

**“If ye have heard of the dispensation of
the grace of God which is given me
to you-ward:”**

THE USE OF THE WORD IN SCRIPTURE


**A. “DISPENSATION” IS USED FOUR TIMES
IN THE KJB NEW TESTAMENT.**

4. Colossians 1:25

**“Whereof I am made a minister,
according to the dispensation of God
which is given to me for you, to fulfil
the word of God;”**

THE MEANING OF THE GREEK WORD TRANSLATED DISPENSATION

B. THE GREEK WORD IS OIKONOMIA.

1. This noun occurs 7 times in the New Testament. (Similar words: 18 times)
 - a. As we have seen, four times it is translated “dispensation.”
 - b. In addition, it is translated “stewardship.” three times.
 - i. It is an “administration” delegated to man by God for a period of time.
- 



THE MEANING OF THE GREEK WORD TRANSLATED DISPENSATION

THE GREEK WORD IS OIKONOMIA.

From two Greek words:

OIKOS = HOUSE (114X)

NOMOS = LAW (197X)



THE MEANING OF THE GREEK WORD TRANSLATED DISPENSATIONALISM

The various forms of the word for *dispensation* appear in the New Testament **eighteen** times.

1. The **verb oiknomeō** is used **once** in Luke 16:2 where it is translated 'to be a **steward.**'
2. The **noun oikonomos** appears **10 times** (Luke 12:42; 16:1, 3, 8; Romans 16:23; 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2; Galatians 4:2; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 4:10) and is usually translated '**steward, chamberlain or governors.**'
3. The **noun oikonomia** (feminine form) **7 times.**

THE MEANING OF THE GREEK WORDS TRANSLATED DISPENSATIONALISM

4. THE MEANING EXPANDED:

a. The management of a household or of household affairs.

1a: specifically, the management, oversight, administration, of other's property.

1b: the office of a manager or overseer, stewardship.

1c : administration, dispensation.

THE MEANING OF THE GREEK WORD TRANSLATED DISPENSATIONALISM

The various forms (cognates) of the word *dispensation* appear in the New Testament eighteen times.

1. The noun oikonomia is used seven times (Luke 16:2, 3, 4; 1 Corinthians 9:17; Ephesians 1:10; 3:2; Colossians 1:25). In these instances it is translated ‘stewardship,’ or ‘dispensation.’

POLYSEMIC WORDS THAT CAN BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN DISPENSATION

In some passages , the Greek words to follow indicate dispensation(s):

1. aions (translated ages or world),
2. genea (translated age and generation),
3. archaios and kairos (translated time)

“Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages (Gr. aions) and from generations (Gr. genea), but now is made manifest to his saints:” (Colossians 1:26)

POLYSEMIC WORDS THAT CAN BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN DISPENSATION

AN EXAMPLE OF A GREEK WORD THAT MAY INDICATE DISPENSATION DEPENDING UPON CONTEXT:

Matthew 16:3

“And in the morning, *It will be* foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not *discern* the signs of the times (Gr. *kairos*)?”

POLYSEMIC WORDS THAT CAN BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN DISPENSATION

EXAMPLE

Ephesians 3:5

“Which in other ages (Gr. genea) was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit” (Ephesians 3:5, *cf.*, v. 21)



APPLICATION

EXAMPLE

Ephesians 3:4-6

“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages (genea) was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: “



APPLICATION

EXAMPLE

Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world [Gr. aion]. Amen.

Can be understood both ways. This is called polysemy or ambiguity.

POLYSEMIC WORDS THAT CAN BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN DISPENSATION

In some passages , the Hebrew or Aramaic texts suggest dispensation(s):

Daniel 2:21 “And he [GOD] changeth the times and the seasons: he [GOD] removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he [GOD] giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:”

SOME OF THE PROOFS OF DISPENSATIONS

Any person is a dispensationalist who:

- 1. Trusts Christ's shed blood and death on the Cross as final atonement rather than animal sacrifice for temporary atonement.**
- 2. Worships on the first day of the week rather than Saturday.**
- 3. Is not building an Ark.**

SOME OF THE PROOFS OF DISPENSATIONS

**THERE ARE ALLEGED CONTRADICTIONS IN THE BIBLE
THAT CAN ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD BY RIGHTLY
DIVIDING GOD'S TRUTH.**

In Gen. 4:9-12, God did not kill Cain for murdering his brother. (versus) In Gen. 9:6, God's rules changed. ("Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.")

Mat. 10:5-15. Disciples were ordered to preach only to the Jews. (versus) In Mat. 28:18-20, Christ commanded that the gospel was to be preached to all men.



SOME OF THE PROOFS OF DISPENSATIONS

**THERE ARE ALLEGED CONTRADICTIONS IN THE BIBLE THAT
CAN ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD BY RIGHTLY DIVIDING HIS
TRUTH.**

**Lk. 22:35-36. What about carrying money and a
weapon compared with no weapons earlier?**

**What about preaching the death, burial, and
resurrection of the Lord compared with
preaching that the gospel of the Kingdom is at
hand?**



SOME OF THE PROOFS OF DISPENSATIONS

**THERE ARE ALLEGED CONTRADICTIONS IN THE BIBLE THAT CAN
ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD BY RIGHTLY DIVIDING HIS TRUTH.**

What about Revelation 13:10 (KJV):

**“He that leadeth into captivity shall go into
captivity: he that killeth with the sword must
be killed with the sword. Here is the patience
and the faith of the saints.”**



SOME OF THE PROOFS OF DISPENSATIONS

**THERE ARE ALLEGED CONTRADICTIONS IN THE BIBLE THAT CAN
ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD BY RIGHTLY DIVIDING HIS TRUTH.**

**What about picking up sticks on the Sabbath?
(Numbers 15:32-35).**

**What about the ordinances (rites and ceremonies)
in the OT?**



DISPENSATIONAL ERRORS

What about Israel and the Church. Roman Catholicism and many Protestants teach that God permanently rejected Israel and replaced it with the Church, called “Replacement Theology.” (See 2 Sam. 7:10ff; Rom. 11:1, 25-29)

Many have adopted certain rituals from the OT dispensation, such as priests, elaborate ceremonies and liturgy with candles & incense Some claim infant baptism replaced circumcision.

What about Herbert Armstrong and the “Worldwide Church of God”?



IMPORTANCE OF DISPENSATIONS

From an article on *Sermon-Audio* from

“... [S]ome will say the Bible has failed in getting its messages across. With consideration given to diminishing congregations in so many churches and the lack of christian morals in society, it is hard to believe that the Bible has been anything close to a success. I wouldn't dare to tell anyone how to lead their life. I have my beliefs, and I live my life in accordance with that belief, on the other hand, I have had so-called "christians" engaging in very non-christian behaviour interfering in my life for as long as I can remember...”



SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:13-29; 2:1-3

For week of 1/22/2012



JOT AND TITTLE

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אלהים

יּ *iota* *jot*

כּ *κεφαλα* *tittle*



IMPORTANCE OF DISPENSATIONS

CHAFER SAID:

“IT IS PROBABLE [FOR THE SAINT] THAT THE RECOGNITION OF THE DISPENSATIONS SHEDS MORE LIGHT ON THE WHOLE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE THAN ANY OTHER ASPECT OF BIBLICAL STUDY.”



DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY IS BAPTIST THEOLOGY

SOME DEFINITIONS

THE *OLD SCOFIELD BIBLE* SAYS:

“A DISPENSATION IS A PERIOD OF
TIME DURING WHICH MAN IS TESTED
IN RESPECT OF OBEDIENCE TO SOME
SPECIFIC REVELATION OF THE WILL OF
GOD.”



DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY IS BAPTIST THEOLOGY

SOME DEFINITIONS

“Major Bible Themes” by Lewis Sperry Chafer:

“A dispensation can be defined as a stage in the progressive revelation of God constituting a distinctive stewardship or rule of life.”



DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY IS BAPTIST THEOLOGY

SOME DEFINITIONS

“Dispensationalism Today” by Charles Ryrie:

“A concise definition is this: A Dispensation is a distinguishable economy in the outworking of God’s purpose.”



DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY IS BAPTIST THEOLOGY

AN ILLUSTRATION

CHANGE OF THE RULES OF ADMINISTRATION IN A DIFFERENT ECONOMY

Before the economic crash, a boss or a company paid an employee 1 and a half times base pay per hour for overtime. **After** the crash, the rules changed, and only the base pay per hour was paid for overtime.

Similarly, when the economy (stewardship) under the Mosaic law failed, God changed economies.



DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY IS BAPTIST THEOLOGY

SOME DEFINITIONS

MY BRIEF DEFINITION:

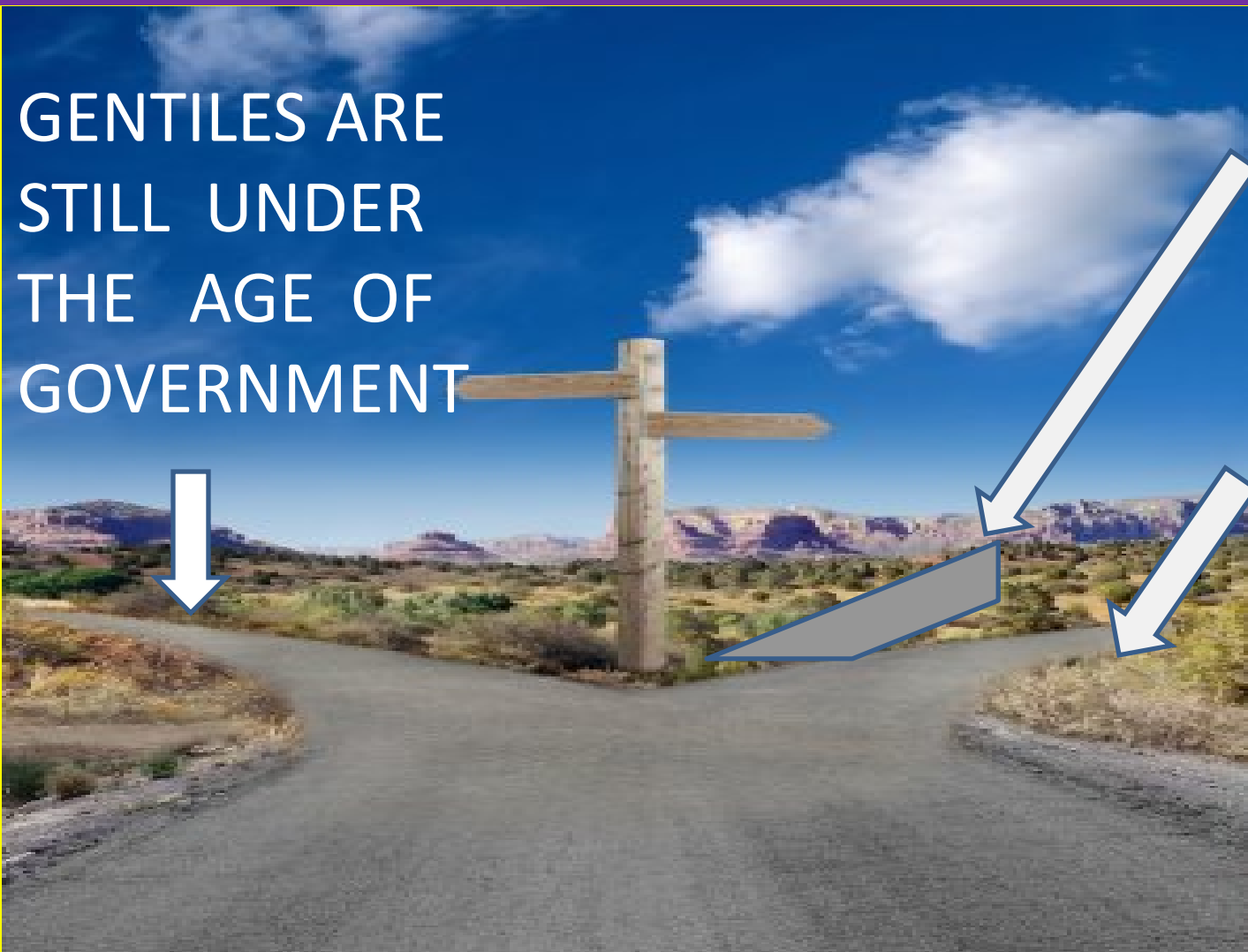
“A SPECIFIC STEWARDSHIP COMMITTED
TO MAN BY GOD” (for a period of
time).

THE FORK IN THE ROAD

GENTILES ARE
STILL UNDER
THE AGE OF
GOVERNMENT

ISRAEL'S
ROAD SINCE
ABRAHAM.

CHURCH
WHILE
ISRAEL IS IN
BLINDNESS
(Rom. 11:25;
1 Co. 12:13,
Eph. 2:16⁴⁶)





THE NEED FOR DISPENSATIONALISM

EXAMPLES DEMONSTRATING THE NEED:

- A. Roman Catholicism does not have a dispensational approach to Scripture. As a result, their theological system is out of control.
 - a. Priests dress similar to the OT priests.
 - b. Their offerings, rituals, mass, and other ordinances derive from a faulty theology.
- B. Covenant Theology is followed by denominations that came out of the Reformation: Presbyterians, Reformed Churches, etc. (**Covenant of Works**, of Grace, and of Redemption). More later.



DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY IS BAPTIST THEOLOGY

THE ORGANIZATION OF EVERY DISPENSATION:

1. TRIAL OR TEST.
2. FAILURE.
3. JUDGMENT.

DISPENSATIONAL DOCTRINE

THE OUTLINE

I. SURVEY (OVERVIEW INTERSPERSED)

II. SCRIPTURAL BASIS

a. TERMS (and cognates)

1. OIKONOMIA

2. AION

3. GENEÄ

b. VERSES

III. THE SIGNIFICANCE & NEED



DISPENSATIONAL DOCTRINE

THE OUTLINE

IV. SALVATION IN THE DISPENSATIONS:

1) HOW ARE YOU SAVED IN EACH DISPENSATION?

V. THE SEVEN DISPENSATIONS

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2. CONSCIENCE (AGE OF HUMAN DETERMINATION)
3. GOVERNMENT
4. PROMISE (PATRIARCHAL)
5. LAW
6. GRACE (CHURCH)
7. KINGDOM (MILLENNIAL)

(AGES TO COME) (SEE Eph. 2:7; 3:5, 21; Psa. 41:13; Isa. 60:15; 1Tim. 1:17; Rev. 22:3-5)



DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY IS BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

**(A SIGNIFICANT MISUNDERSTANDING BY THOSE
WHO ATTACK DISPENSATIONALISM)**

**THEY CLAIM DISPENSATIONALISTS
TEACH THE PATH TO INITIAL
SALVATION CHANGES THROUGH THE
DISPENSATIONS!**

THIS IS FALSE!!!



DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY IS BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

SCRIPTURE

Romans 4:1-25

Ephesians 2:8-9

Genesis 5:24; 6:8-9; 15:6**

Habakkuk 2:4

SALVATION IN THE DISPENSATIONS

GOD'S GRACE

“The basis of INITIAL salvation in every age is the death of Christ, ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES (shedding of His blood). (Heb. 9:22; 10:10)

“The requirement for salvation in every age is FAITH. (Rom. 4, Heb. 11:6, etc., etc.) (pistueo)

“The object of salvation in every age is the God of the Bible, (Deut 4; 6 (Shema), 11, Act 27:25)

“The content of faith changes in every age.”
This is “Progressive Revelation.” (Covenants)



DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY IS BAPTIST THEOLOGY

ANOTHER WRONG CHARGE AGAINST DISPENSATIONALISM

Daniel P. Fuller, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary,
Chicago, 1957, said:

**“Ignorance [by those who teach and believe
Dispensationalism] is bliss, and it may well be
that this popularity would not be so great if
the adherents of this system knew the historical
background of what they teach.....”**

[continues on the next slide]



DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY IS BAPTIST THEOLOGY

WRONG CHARGES AGAINST DISPENSATIONALISM

Fuller continues:

“Few indeed realize that the teaching of Chafer came from Scofield, who in turn got it through the writings of [John] Darby [1800-1882] and the Plymouth Brethren.”

THIS IS FALSE AND WE WILL ADDRESS IT.



DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY

THEOLOGY: THE STUDY OF GOD
THEOLOGY IS DIVIDED INTO TWO
MAJOR DIVISIONS:

1. DISPENSATIONAL (BAPTIST) THEOLOGY

A. HOWEVER, THERE ARE BAPTISTS WHO CALL THEMSELVES CALVINISTS, SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTISTS, ETC. THIS IS WRONG.

2. COVENANT (PROTESTANT, RC) THEOLOGY



DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY

versus

COVENANT THEOLOGY

1. COVENANT THEOLOGY:

a. REFORMED THEOLOGY

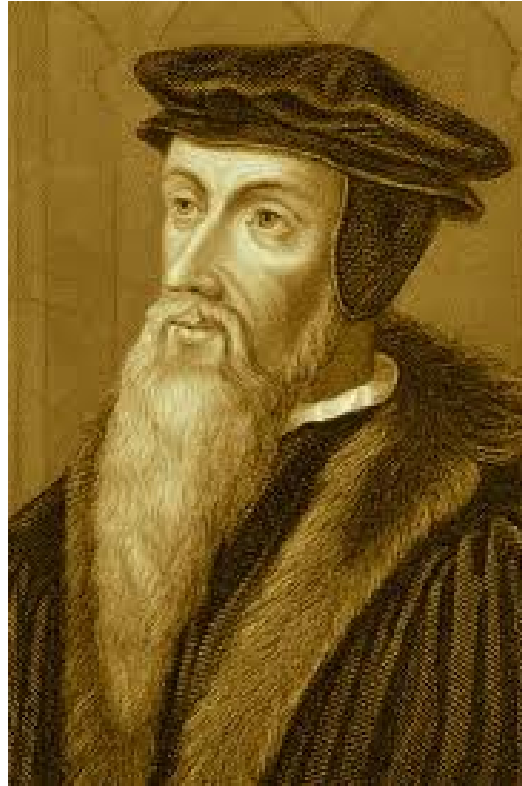
- i. DEVELOPED IN THE REFORMATION**
- ii. ASSOCIATED WITH LUTHER, CALVIN, ZWINGLI**

b. CALVINISTIC THEOLOGY : “TULIP”

2. CLAIM TWO MAJOR COVENANTS



Ulrich Zwingli



John Calvin



Martin Luther



DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY

versus

COVENANT THEOLOGY

2. CLAIM TWO MAJOR COVENANTS:

- 1) A COVENANT OF WORKS (IN THE GARDEN)**
- 2) A COVENANT OF GRACE**



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SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 5: 12-13 (cf. 1 Cor. 3:2)

Mat. 7:21-23 (review)



COVENANT THEOLOGY

POSTMODERN MOVEMENT CHURCHES, EVEN BAPTISTS, ARE CAUGHT UP IN COVENANT THEOLOGY

1. COVENANT (CALVINISM) THEOLOGY: TULIP

- a. T = TOTAL DEPRAVITY
- b. U = UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION
- c. L = LIMITED ATONEMENT
- d. I = IRRESISTABLE GRACE
- e. P = PERSEVERANCE

2. COVENANT'S "REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY"



COVENANTS

The word covenant(s) mentioned 300 times. It does not include words such as promise(s).

The **Unconditional** Covenants mentioned in the Bible are:

Literal and eternal and made by an eternal and covenant-making God with a covenant people (Israel).

I am a **literalist** because of the **literal** fulfillment of prophecy (*e.g.*, over 300 specific prophecies about Jesus Christ). (This means literal **interpretation**; we realize there is abundant typology in the Bible, which is not used to establish doctrine, but to confirm it.)



COVENANTS

The **FIVE** Critically Important **Unconditional**
COVENANTS

1. **Abrahamic** Gen. 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-17; 15:6; 17:1-22
 - A. Land
 - B. Nation
 - C. Blessing
2. **Davidic**: 2 Sam. 7:8-29
 - A. House: continued posterity
 - B. Kingdom: realm of political power
 - C. Throne: rulership of posterity

COVENANTS

The Unconditional Covenants

3. Palestinian: Deut. 28:1-30:10

- A. Israel plucked off the Promised Land for unfaithfulness. (Deut. 28:63-68, 30:1-3)
- B. Future repentance of Israel. (Deut. 28:63-68, 30:1-3)
- C. Messiah will return & (Deut. 30:3-6)
- D. They will be restored to the land. (Deut. 30:5)
- E. Israel converted as a nation. (Deut. 30:4-8; Rom. 11)
- F. Her enemies will be judged. (Deut. 30:7)
- G. She will receive her full blessing. (Deut. 30:9)

COVENANTS

The Unconditional Covenants

4. New Covenant: Jer. 31:31-34; Isa. 61:8-9; Eze. 37:21-28
- A. Renewed mind and heart. (Jer. 31:33)
 - B. Forgiveness of sin. (Jer. 31:34b)
 - C. Teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit. (Jer. 31:34)
 - D. Indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (Jer. 31:33 with Eze. 36:27)
 - E. Dwell forever in the land. (Jer. 32:41)
 - F. God will tabernacle with them. (Eze. 37:26-27a)

COVENANTS

The Unconditional Covenants

5. THE COVENANT: Isa. 42:1-8; 49:1-26; Heb. 13:20; Gen. 17:7, 13; Gal. 3:17.

A. THE MESSIAH

- a. To open blind eyes (Isa. 42:7)
- b. Bring out prisoners from the prison and darkness (Isa. 42:7)

B. He is God's Elect (Isa. 42:1)

C. He is a Covenant of the people (Isa. 42:6)

D. He is a Light of the Gentiles (Isa 42:6)

COVENANTS

The Conditional Covenants or Requirements or Agreements

1. There are many in Scripture:
 - a. Salt Covenant (Nu. 18:19; Col. 4:6).
 - b. Covenant of Circumcision (Gen. 17:13).
 - c. Covenant besides the Covenant at Horeb. (Deut. 29:1, 14-15).
 - d. Covenant of Peace (with Phinehas, Nu. 25:11-12).
 - e. Covenant with the House of David (1 Sam. 20:16).
 - f. Hebron Covenant (1 Chron. 11:3).



COVENANTS

The Conditional Covenants or Requirements or Agreements

2. Many are associated with the change in dispensations.
 - a. Edenic
 - b. Adamic
 - c. Noahic
 - d. Mosaic

COVENANT THEOLOGY

1. There is **great confusion about Israel and the church**. Covenant theologians believe the church replaced Israel or there is a blurring of the distinctiveness.
 - a. Therefore, the OT promises to Israel are fulfilled in the church. This is absolutely wrong.

1 Corinthians 10:32:

“Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:” [**This was given after formation of the church; Israel still continuing. (cf. Rom. 11)**]



COVENANT THEOLOGY

2. They **allegorize** a large part of the Scripture, particularly eschatological (prophecy) Scripture. (33+% of Scripture is prophecy).
 - a. Example: The Millennium is not literally a thousand years, simply a long, undetermined time.
 - b. The tribulation period is simply the tribulation of saints over the centuries.



COVENANT THEOLOGY

3. Soteriological (**salvation**) Confusion.
 - a. Claims **primary goal of creation is the salvation of man**. Rather, it is to the glory of God—the unifying theme of all dispensations. (Isa. 42:8; Rev. 4:11)
 - b. If the major emphasis is Man's salvation, it makes "man" central in creation as opposed to God. This is part of "selfism."
4. Places an emphasis on constructed covenants.
5. Covenant Theologians are often Hypercalvinists (5 point Calvinists).

DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY

FOUR DISPENSATIONAL APPROACHES

1. CLASSIC DISPENSATIONALISM:

- 1) C. I. SCOFIELD
- 2) Clarence LARKIN
- 3) Lewis Sperry CHAFER

2. MODIFIED DISPENSATIONALISM:

- 1) Charles Ryrie
- 2) John Walvoord
- 3) Dwight Pentecost

DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY

FOUR DISPENSATIONAL APPROACHES

3. FURTHER MODIFIED (PROGRESSIVE)

- 1) Robert SAUCY**
- 2) Craig BLAISING**
- 3) Darrell BLOCK**

4. ULTRA OR HYPER DISPENSATIONALISM

- 1) E. W. BULLINGER**
- 2) Cornelius STAM**
- 3) J. C. O'HAIR**

DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY

FOUR DISPENSATIONAL APPROACHES

I. CLASSIC DISPENSATIONALISM

- 1. Israel is on earth; church is in heaven.**
- 2. The two never meet; even in eternity.**
- 3. Some taught there were two ways to heaven.**
 - 1) Works in the OT.**
 - 2) Faith in NT.**

DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY

FOUR DISPENSATIONAL APPROACHES

II. MODIFIED DISPENSATIONALISM

- 1. Israel and the church will be together after the Millennium.**
- 2. There is only one way to salvation in OT & NT.**
- 3. There is only one New Covenant that is shared by both Israel and the church.**

DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY

FOUR DISPENSATIONAL APPROACHES

III. FURTHER MODIFIED DISPENSATIONALISM

1. The church is not a parenthesis but the first step towards establishing the Kingdom of God.
2. God does not have two purposes, Israel & the church—one purpose and both share.
3. There is no distinction in the future state between Israel & the church.
4. The church will reign (with Jews) in glorified bodies on earth during the millennium. But, the OT prophecies regarding Israel will be fulfilled in the millennium by ethnic Jews. They do not see the church as the new Israel or believe that OT prophecies are fulfilled in the church.



DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY

FOUR DISPENSATIONAL APPROACHES

IV. ULTRA OR HYPER DISPENSATIONALISM

1. Variations of when the church began (e.g., either Acts 9, 13, 28).
2. The ordinances of either baptism or the Lord's Supper does not apply to the church.
3. Some even see "two" churches.
4. Some teach the dispensations are sealed off one from the other.
5. The four Gospels are entirely Jewish.



BE CAREFULL WITH COMMENTARIES

COMMENTARIES

- 1. ADAM CLARKE: (METHODIST) (MOTHER WAS PRESBYTERIAN). HAD SOME UNUSUAL IDEAS (Judas was saved); HEBREW & GREEK SCHOLAR**
- 2. JOHN GILL: (BAPTIST) STRONG CALVINIST HEBREW SCHOLAR.**
- 3. KARL BARTH: Professor of Reformed theology at the University of Göttingen**
- 4. ALBERT BARNES (PRESBYTERIAN) (REJECTED CALVINISM) HAD SOME UNUSUAL IDEAS**



BE CAREFUL

**AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO (354-430 A.D.): THE GREAT HERETIC
(AUTHOR OF “THE CITY OF GOD.” HE TAUGHT:**

- 1. INFANT BAPTISM.**
- 2. AMILLENNIANISM.**
- 3. FATHER OF REFORMATION THEOLOGY.**
- 4. THEOLOGY DICTATED BY EXPERIENCE (A
POSTMODERN MANTRA).**
- 5. FATHER OF CATHOLICISM AND PROTESTANTISM.**
- 6. MANICHEANISM: DUALISM, PLATONISM, ...**

**AUGUSTINE
OF HIPPO
(354-430 A.D.)**





12/13/2011



DISPENSATIONALISM IN HISTORY



**It did not begin with John Darby
(1800-1882)!**

**This is a classic argument against
dispensational theology that is not
true.**

**It began with God. Other Ante-Nicene Church
elders also mentioned “ages” or “dispensations”
or “covenants” or “courses” in the differing
periods such as Irenaeus (c. 125 – c. 202 A.D.).⁸⁶**



DISPENSATIONALISM IN HISTORY

Irenaeus (c. 125 – c. 202 A.D.) was a disciple of Polycarp. Polycarp was discipled by the Apostle John. Irenaeus said:

“...and the gospel is quadriform, as is also the course [dispensations] followed by the Lord. For this reason were four principle covenants given to the human race: one, prior to the Deluge, under Adam; the second, that after the Deluge, under Noah; the third, the giving of the law, under Moses; the fourth, that which renovates man, and sums up all things in itself by means of the Gospel, raising and bearing men upon its wings into the heavenly kingdom.



DISPENSATIONALISM IN HISTORY

OTHERS WHO MENTIONED DISPENSATIONS:

1. Justin Martyr (110-165 A.D.)
2. Clement of Alexandria (150-220 A.D.)
3. Even Augustine (354-430 A.D.): “The divine institution of sacrifice was suitable in the former dispensation, but is not suitable now. God...knows ...what is suitable for every age.”
4. Pierre Poiret (1646-1719 A.D.)
5. John Edwards (1639-1716 A.D.) published two volumes: “A Complete History or Survey of All the Dispensations.”



DISPENSATIONALISM IN HISTORY

OTHERS WHO MENTIONED DISPENSATIONS:

1. John Edwards (1639-1716 A.D.) published two volumes: *“A Complete History or Survey of All the Dispensations.”*
2. Isaac Watts (1674-1748 A.D.), the hymn writer, wrote: *“The Harmony of all the Religions which God ever Prescribed to Men and all his Dispensations towards them.”* (SEE HANDOUT)



DISPENSATIONALISM IN HISTORY

THE FINAL WORD IS NOT WHAT MAN HAS TO SAY.

RATHER, THE AUTHORITY IN THE MATTER IS GOD'S WORDS, OUR "FINAL AUTHORITY"!

THE MEANING OF THE GREEK WORD TRANSLATED DISPENSATIONALISM

B. THE GREEK WORD IS OIKONOMIA.

1. It comes from two Greek words:

a. οἶκος = oikos = house

β. νόμος = nomos = law

2. It means:

a. the law of the household, or

b. the method of administering the household.

THE MEANING OF THE GREEK WORD TRANSLATED DISPENSATIONALISM

3. Please note that the meaning has to do with two aspects:
 - a. A period of time (not as important).
 - b. The “method” or “system” of the stewardship.

SOME FACTS ABOUT DISPENSATIONALISM

- 1. Dispensations are NOT about salvation or how you are saved.**
- 2. God's orderly "Progressive Revelation " through seven dispensations to try man's faithfulness (not his salvation).**
- 3. God is demonstrating that man needs a Shepherd; man is not capable of managing himself.**

SOME FACTS ABOUT DISPENSATIONALISM

4. Throughout the dispensations, there is order outlined in responsibilities.
5. Even amongst the Trinity, there is order or division of responsibilities.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (KJB) “Now there are diversities of gifts, (CFO) but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, (COO) but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, (CEO) but it is the same God which worketh all in all.”



SOME FACTS ABOUT DISPENSATIONALISM

6. GRACE WAS PRESENT IN THE GARDEN AS A GIFT OF GOD. IT IS NOT A COVENANT. GOD IS GRACE.

John 1:14 (KJV)

(KJV) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.



SALVATION IN THE DISPENSATIONS

“The basis of salvation in every age is the death of Christ, ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES

“The requirement for salvation in every age is FAITH,

“The object of salvation in every age is the God of the Bible,

“The content of faith changes in every age.” This is “Progressive Revelation.”



UNDERSTANDING DISPENSATIONALISM

EXAMPLES:

- Without a doubt, we are to serve (work) for him, but there is not a **covenant of works** (**Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 11:6**). Work in the Garden was part of the responsibilities for that dispensation (to care for the garden, Gen. 2:15).
- The grace of God was present in the Garden, also; He did not destroy Adam and Eve and creation after “the fall of man.”



UNDERSTANDING DISPENSATIONALISM

EXAMPLES:

- Without a doubt, redemption is and was in the plan of God, which was first seen in the Garden (Gen. 3:15, 21) and throughout man's history (1 Pe. 1:18-19, Rev. 13:8, 1 Pe. 1:20) .
- THE PROTO EVANGELICALISM

THERE MUST BE AND THERE IS A DISTINCTION IN ADMINISTRATIONS

(Galatians 4:4-5)

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. (note “time” is singular)

- Remember, Paul made it clear that we must “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)

THERE MUST BE AND THERE IS A DISTINCTION IN ADMINISTRATIONS

Ephesians 1:10:

**That in the dispensation of the fulness of timeS
he might gather together in one all things in
Christ, both which are in heaven, and which
are on earth; *even* in him: (*note “time” is
plural*) (*cf. Gal. 3:16*).**

- Remember, Paul made it clear that we must **“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)



THERE MUST BE AND THERE IS A DISTINCTION IN ADMINISTRATIONS

In the book of John it says:

John 1:17

“For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace
and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

This is a clear distinction in stewardship or
administration or dispensation by God from
the OT to the NT.



PROPER INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE IS CRITICAL

The “Golden Rule of Bible Interpretation”

“When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense. Therefore take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning, unless the facts of the immediate context and axiomatic and fundamental truths indicate clearly otherwise.”

Of course there are “figures of speech” in the Bible, but the rule prohibits us from using figures of speech to establish a doctrine.

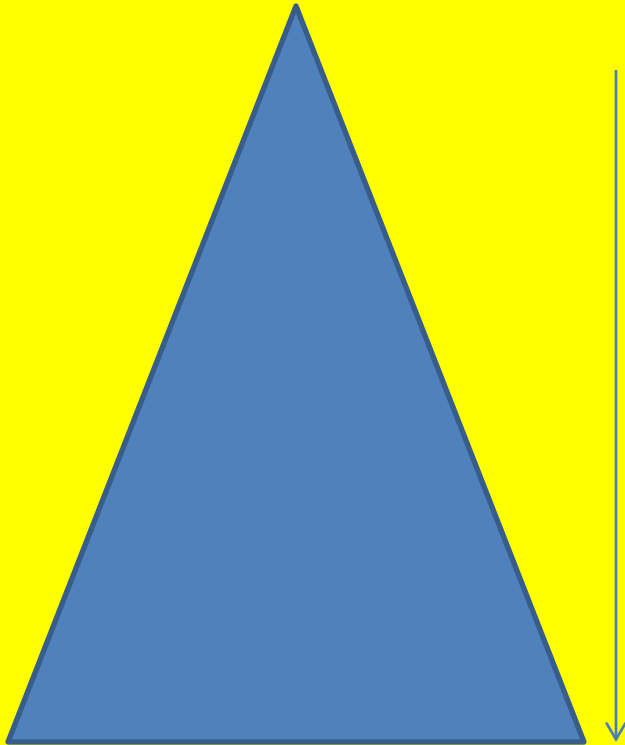
PROPER INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE IS CRITICAL

**WE MUST NOT BRING OUR IDEAS TO
THE SCRIPTURE (CALLED DEDUCTIVE
REASONING) BUT WE MUST LET
SCRIPTURE DICTATE TO US ITS
INTERPRETATION (CALLED INDUCTIVE
REASONING)**

PROPER INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE IS CRITICAL

DEDUCTIVE REASONING

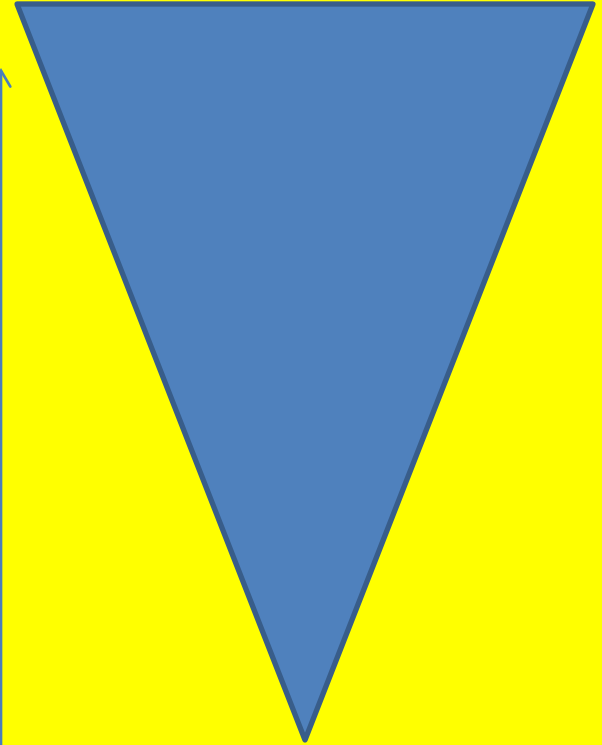
BEGIN WITH A THOUGHT
(Covenant Theology)



END WITH SCRIPTURE TO
SUPPORT IT

INDUCTIVE INTERPRETATION

END WITH A DOCTRINE:
DISPENSATIONALISM



BEGIN WITH A WORD:
DISPENSATION



THE CARDINAL RULES FOR INTERPRETATION

- 1. When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense.**
- 2. Use only the clear statements of Scripture to establish a doctrine., then apply it to the less clear statements in Scripture.**
- 3. Pay particular attention to the first occurrences of a word.**
- 4. Examine the word, then the phrase, then the sentence (or verse), then the passage, then the other uses by the author, then the entire Bible.**



THE RUE OVER PROGRESSIVE DISPENSATIONALISM

1. P.D. is being taught at a number of seminaries such as Northwestern Theological Seminary in St. Paul and Central Theological Seminary in Plymouth, MN by Professor Edward Glenny, Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, TX. Dr. Swindoll is there. When Dr. Chafer was there, they trained their students in CLASSIC Dispensationalism.
2. Dr. Walvoord, Chancellor at DTS, said “theology is changing.” If its Biblical theology, it does not change.



THE RUE OVER PROGRESSIVE DISPENSATIONALISM

3. Formerly and correctly, I was taught that the “Sermon on the Mount” was the principles for the Kingdom Age, the Millennial Age when the King comes. The ‘new’ teaching of Progressive Dispensationalism is that it applies to the “Church” which replaced Israel. It is true that the ‘believing’ church should reflect these principles.
4. Furthermore, they teach that the Lord Jesus Christ is reigning ON EARTH right now. If He is reigning at present, He is making a terrible mess. The “prince of this world” is currently reigning. Of course, God is sovereign and He is the OOO God!



HYPERDISPENSATIONALISM OR ULTRADISPENSATIONALISM

1. TEACHES SEPARATE DISPENSATIONS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.
 - a. THE EXTREME: CHURCH STARTS AT ACTS 28;
 - b. MODERATES: AT ACTS 9 OR 13
2. FOR SOME AN ENTIRE DISPENSATION IS GIVEN TO THE PERIOD OF TIME BETWEEN CALVARY AND:
 - a. THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO THE CHURCH, OR
 - b. THE BEGINNING OF PAUL'S MINISTRY AS THE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES, OR
 - c. THE END OF ACTS.
3. E. W. Bullinger is associated with hyperdispensationalism or ultradispensationalism

HYPERDISPENSATIONALISM OR ULTRADISPENSATIONALISM

- 1. DEPENDING ON THE THEOLOGIAN; SOME
PLACE THE DIVISION IN ACTS SO THAT
THERE IS:
 - a. ONE ORDINANCE (EITHER WATER BAPTISM
OR THE LORD'S SUPPER), OR**
 - b. NO ORDINANCE FOR THE CHURCH****



ULTRADISPENSATIONALISM

(Bullingerism)

SOME OF THE UNUSUAL BELIEFS


- 1. THE GREAT COMMISSION IN MATTHEW & MARK IS JEWISH.**
- 2. THE MINISTRY OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES IS A CONTINUATION OF CHRIST'S MINISTRY.**
- 3. THE CHURCH DID NOT BEGIN AT PENTECOST.**
- 4. WATER BAPTISM IS NOT FOR THIS AGE.**
- 5. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PAUL'S EARLY AND LATER MINISTRIES.**
- 6. ISRAEL, NOT THE CHURCH, IS CHRIST'S BRIDE.**



THE SEVEN DISPENSATIONS

1. INNOCENCE
2. CONSCIENCE
3. GOVERNMENT
4. PATRIARCHAL OR PROMISE
5. LAW
6. GRACE OR CHURCH
7. MILLENNIUM OR KINGDOM

SOME SIMPLY MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN LAW AND GRACE; OTHERS ONLY LAW, GRACE, AND MILLENNIUM, OR PROMISE, LAW, GRACE, MILLENNIUM.



HYPERDISPENSATIONALISM OR ULTRADISPENSATIONALISM

HYPERDISPENSATIONALISTS CLAIM EIGHT OR MORE DISPENSATIONS BY WRONGLY DIVIDING THE BOOK OF ACTS.

Those who throw out water baptism claim there is no distinction between water baptism and circumcision. They wait eight days until they sprinkle babies, just like the act of circumcision at eight days.



SOME OF THE PROOFS OF DISPENSATIONS

1. WE HAVE NO GARDEN OF EDEN.
2. WE ARE NOT INNOCENT (WE HAVEN'T YET SINNED). NOW WE ARE SINNERS BECAUSE OF ADAM. ADAM WAS THE HEAD OF THE RACE.
3. WE DO NOT HAVE A PARADISE.
4. THE OLD TESTAMENT IS WRITTEN FOR US BUT IT IS NOT TO US. THE APOSTLES PAUL'S LETTER'S ARE TO US IN THE CHURCH AGE.



SOME OF THE PROOFS OF DISPENSATIONS

5. IN GENESIS 1:9-10, MAN, FOWL, AND ANIMALS WERE TO EAT THE HERBS OF THE FIELD.
 - a. WE ARE NOT HERBIVOROUS AND
 - b. MANY ANIMALS ARE NOT.
6. IN GENESIS 9:3, AFTER THE FLOOD, A TRANSITION PERIOD, MAN IS GIVEN MEAT OR FLESH TO EAT: “EVERY MOVING THING.”
7. IN GENESIS 2:25, MAN WAS NAKED. AFTER SIN, MAN WAS TO BE CLOTHED; GOD MADE CLOTHING OF ANIMALS SKINS—THEREFORE THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD AND THE PICTURE OF REDEMPTION.



SOME OF THE PROOFS OF DISPENSATIONS

8. GENESIS 6:14: Noah was to build an ark.
ORDERED TO BUILD IT 120 YEARS BEFORE THE
FLOOD. WE ARE NOT TO BUILD AN ARK. WE
HAVE AN ARK: IF YOU ARE IN HIM, YOU ARE
SAFE FROM THE FLOOD OF JUDGMENT TO
COME.
9. WE ARE NOT TOLD TO SACRIFICE ANIMALS.
(ALL THE SACRIFICES FOR ISRAEL CAME TO
ABOUT 1256+ EVERY YEAR (LEV. 23, NUM. 28)).
10. WE ARE NOT TOLD TO GO TO JERUSALEM
THREE TIMES A YEAR (EX. 34:23).



SOME OF THE PROOFS OF DISPENSATIONS

11. GOD PERMITTED MANY WIVES. SOLOMON HAD 1000 WIVES AND CONCUBINES.
12. NOW: MATTHEW 19:5-6 RULES. Spiritually means "Till death do us part" is a phrase from the marriage liturgy in the Anglican Book of Common Prayer, which uses the "us do" phrasing. The "do us" phrasing is more common in the United States.
13. MOSES WAS ORDERED TO BUILD A TABERNACLE. WE ARE THE TABERNACLE OF GOD IN THIS DISPENSATION.



SOME OF THE PROOFS OF DISPENSATIONS

14. SOME THINGS ARE TRANSDISPENSATIONAL:

- a. Capital Punishment (Gen. 9:6, Acts 25:11, Rom. 13:4)
- b. Abstain from the eating of blood (Gen. 9:4, Acts 15:20). “The life of the flesh is in the blood.”
- c. Abstain from fornication, unchaste (Lev. 21:9, 19:29, Deut. 22:20-21, 23-29; 23:18; Ex. 22:16, Mat. 19:9, Acts 15:20, 29, 1 Cor. 6:18 (porneia, and porneuo))
- d. Food offered to idols.
- e. Nine of the Ten Commandments are repeated in the NT. (Sabbath is not repeated in the NT.)

SOME OF THE PROOFS OF DISPENSATIONS

Any person is a dispensationalist who:

- 1. Trusts Christ's shed blood and death on the Cross rather than animal sacrifice.**
- 2. Worships on the first day of the week rather than Saturday.**



THE NEW COVENANT

JEREMIAH 31

Galatians 3:14:

“That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

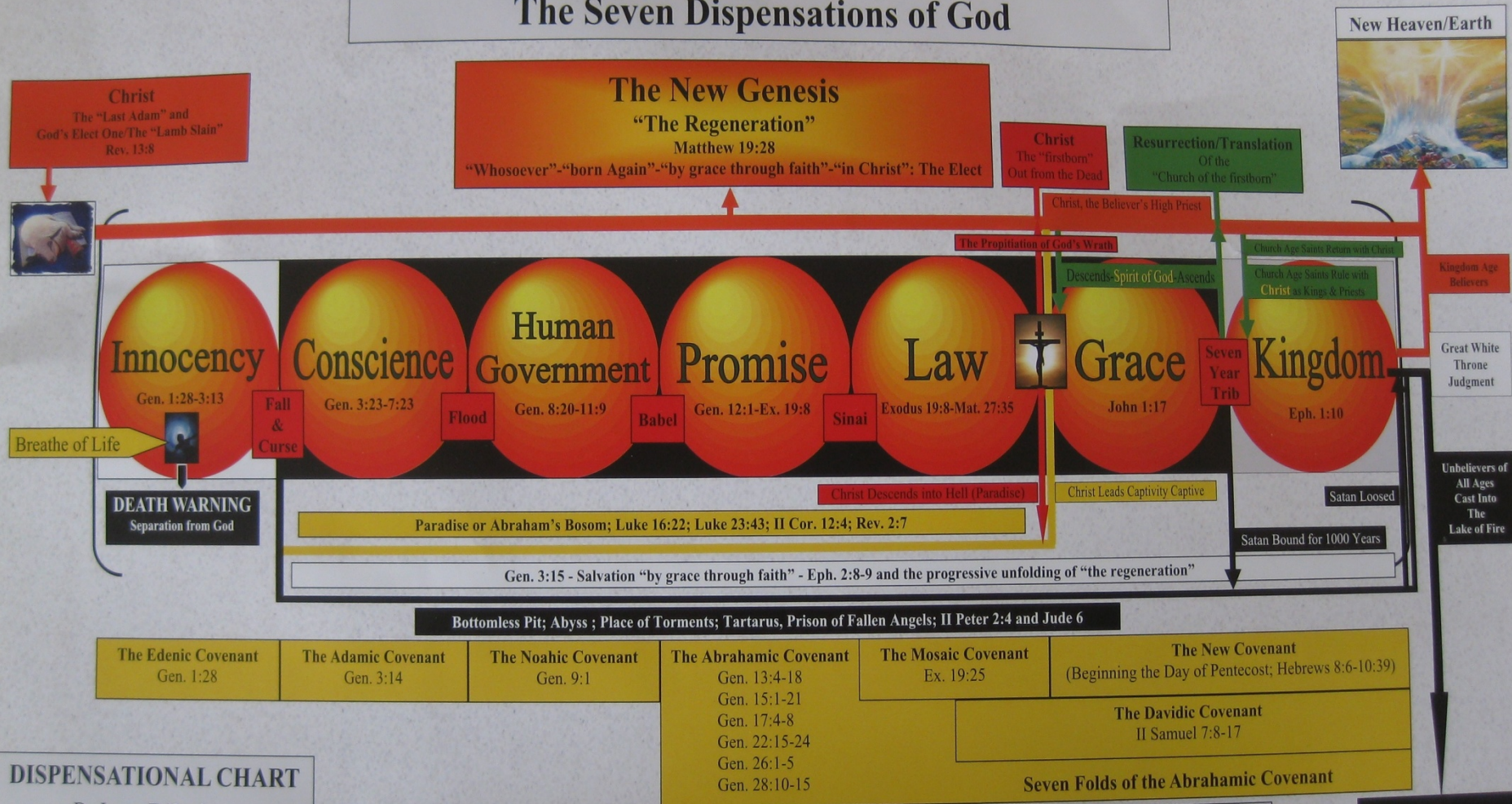
Eternity
Past

GOD'S PLAN OF THE AGES

(Time is but a parentheses in the infinite existence of God known as eternal life)

Eternity
Future

The Seven Dispensations of God



DISPENSATIONAL CHART

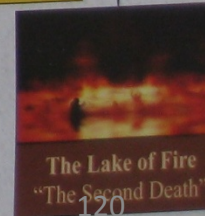
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The Seven Covenants of God

"Search the Scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me" (John 5:39).





APPLICATION

1. Ezekiel 37
2. Matthew 16:13-28
3. Isaiah 9:6-7
4. Daniel 9:24-27
5. The Shema (Hear) Deut. 6:1-4, 10-12
6. Hosea 3:4-5
7. Micah 5

DISPENSATIONAL DOCTRINE

Remember Pastor Faggart's Message on Matthew 16:13-28?

v. 18-19 cannot be understood without dispensational understanding.

v. 21-26 correlates with the age of grace

v. 27-28 is the dispensation of the Millennium.