

Practical Theology – Lesson 3 – “Biblical Period Theology”

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The Concept of ‘Dispensations’ = God’s various governing relationships with mankind

My definition: Dispensationalism is theological term for a historical/legal framework, defined by distinctions in the various historical governing relationships between God and mankind, for the purpose of showing contextual limits of passages of Scripture, (but not indicating variance in the means of salvation or in the identity of God).

1. Genesis 2:16-17 - **Innocence** – from Creation to Fall
2. Genesis 3:9-24 - **Conscience** – from Fall to Flood
 - a. Genesis 3:14-19 The ‘curse’
 - b. Genesis 3:15 Promise of the Redeemer
 - i. Traditionally interpreted as promise of Redeemer
 - ii. Referenced Isaiah 53:5,10, Romans 16:20
 - c. Unknown understanding and guidance afterwards
3. Genesis 8:18-9:17 - **Government** – from Noahic Covenant
 - 1) Be fruitful and multiply, 2) Eat anything that moves, 3) No murder
4. *Promise – from Abrahamic Covenants – not technically a distinct dispensation*
Note Genesis 15:6 – Salvation by Faith, Rom 4:9,22, Gal 3:6, James 2:23
5. Exodus 19:3-8 - **Law** – from Mt Sinai, pertains to Israel only, ended by sacrifice of Jesus Christ
6. *Matthew 5:17 - Transition period – life of Christ – technically still under dispensation of Law*
7. Matthew 27:50,51, Acts 2:1-4 - **Grace** (Church Age) – from tearing of the veil / Pentecost until rapture
8. *Daniel 9:24-27 - Transition period - **Tribulation** period – brief, but distinct, dispensation*
9. Revelation 20:1-6 - **Millennial Kingdom** – 1,000 literal years
10. The ‘Eternal State’ following the Millennial Kingdom is not considered a ‘dispensation’.

Biblical Period Knowledge before the Law

Adam and Eve, Antediluvian People, Noah, Job (after Abraham, before Moses)

1. Promise of a redeemer Genesis 3:9-24
2. Concept of Sacrifice, not works Genesis 3:21, 4:3-4
3. Concept of Clean and Unclean animals Genesis 7:2-3
4. Benefit of knowledge from God walking with Adam (930), unknown degree of familiarity
5. Noahic Covenant (Genesis 8:18-9:17) supersedes, but does not erase unknown understanding
6. Promises to Abraham
 - a. Genesis 12:1-3, **especially see v3**, (also v7)
 - b. Genesis 13:14-17
 - c. Genesis 15 (unconditional, land)
 - d. Genesis 17 (father of nations, renaming, identity of circumcision)
 - e. Genesis 22:15-18, **especially see v 18**.
7. Job 19:25-27 - Job reveals knowledge of the Redeemer coming in the flesh, and priestly sacrificial intercession – Job 1:5, 42:7-8.