

Eight Dispensations

Dispensation 1:

1. What is the dispensation called?

Innocence.

2. When did this dispensation begin?

Begins with the creation of man - Genesis 1:26

3. What is man's responsibility in this dispensation to have fellowship with God and prepare him for eternal reward and fellowship with God?

Man could freely eat of every tree of the garden. This included the tree of life. However, man could not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told man if he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, that he would surely die. - Genesis 2:8-17.

4. What attribute of God's character is predominate in this dispensation?

Goodness

5. What is man's test and/or failure in this dispensation?

Man disobeyed God and gave into the temptation of Satan and ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

6. What is the final judgment or cataclysmic event that closes this dispensation?

Adam lost spiritual fellowship with God in the garden. Satan was judged in Gen. 3:14, "upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life" Gen. 3:15 - Satan judged - "it shall bruise thy head" The woman was judged in Gen. 3:16 - "...I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children;" Man is judged in Gen. 3:17.,19 - "...in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life." "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground." The earth is cursed in Gen. 3:17 - "...cursed is the ground for thy sake" In Gen. 3:21 - an innocent victim (animal) by stander is killed because of Adam and Eve's sin. In this case, God kills an animal to cover the wickedness and sin of Adam and Eve. Finally, in Gen. 3:23-24, God expels man from the Garden of Eden.

Dispensation 2

1. What is the dispensation called?

Conscience

2. When did this dispensation begin?

This dispensation begins with Adam and Eve being banished from the garden. Then Adam knew Eve and she conceives Cain and Abel. Gen. 3:23-4:2.

3. What is man's responsibility in this dispensation to have fellowship with God and prepare him for eternal reward and fellowship with God?

Through Cain and Abel, God revealed to man that he would accept the shed blood of a lamb to pay for a man's sin. Gen. 4:3,4. So, man at this point had three witnesses to guide him in being right with God.

a) internal witness his conscience; b) external witness, the creation and c) heavenly witness - shed blood of the lamb would be accepted to pay for a man's sin.

4. What attribute of God's character is predominate in this dispensation?

Longsuffering

5. What is man's test and/or failure in this dispensation?

Man failed to keep his generations perfect except for Noah - Gen, 6:9. The sons of God (fallen angels) had cohabited with the daughters of men and created a mongrel race - Gen. 6:1,2,4.

6. What is the final judgment or cataclysmic event that closes this dispensation?

The Flood - Gen. 7:17-24.

Dispensation 3

1. What is the dispensation called?

Human Government.

2. When did this dispensation begin?

This dispensation begins when Noah comes out of the ark, builds an altar, and offers to God a burnt offering on the altar. - Gen. 8:20.

3. What is man's responsibility in this dispensation to have fellowship with God and prepare him for eternal reward and fellowship with God?

Man's responsibility primarily the same as in the dispensation of conscience. Man is to follow his conscience, the creation, and God would accept the shed blood of an animal to pay for man's sin. Man now is to have an offering and it is to be called a burnt sacrifice and to be offered upon an altar. Man is told by God to be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. Man was not to gather together in one place. God gives man the responsibility of capital punishment and prohibition against the eating of blood. Gen. 8:20-9:6.

4. What attribute of God's character is predominate in this dispensation?

Justness

5. What is man's test and/or failure in this dispensation?

During this dispensation, God for the first time allowed man the responsibility to control his own society. Before this God did it. Man disobeyed God and his failure was in coming together in one place instead of scattering and replenishing the earth - (Gen. 11:1). Man says he will build his own way to heaven. This is the first time we have organized religion. Gen. 11:5-6.

6. What is the final judgment or cataclysmic event that closes this dispensation?

The dispensation closes by God scattering the people and confounding their language. Gen. 11:7-9.

Dispensation 4.

1. What is the dispensation called?

Promise

2. When did this dispensation begin?

This dispensation begins with God calling out Abram from his father's house in Genesis 12:1. God promises Abram a great nation, name, physical, spiritual blessings and blessing and cursing in relationship to Abraham's family and nation.

3. What is man's responsibility in this dispensation to have fellowship with God and prepare him for eternal reward and fellowship with God?

They are still to sacrifice. They are to stay in the land. Every man child eight days old was to be circumcised. For the first time an element of faith was to be involved as a condition to be right with God. (Genesis 15:5,6).

4. What attribute of God's character is predominate in this dispensation?

Faithfulness

5. What is man's test and/or failure in this dispensation?

They did not stay in the land and intermarried with the heathen nations, worshipped false idols. They sacrificed unto false gods. They did not circumcise. They forget the conditions to God's promises.

6. What is the final judgment or cataclysmic event that closes this dispensation?

The final judgment or cataclysmic event that closes this dispensation is that the children of Israel who are now in Egypt are put into captivity by Pharaoh. Exodus 1:11.

Dispensation 5.

1. What is the dispensation called?

Law

2. When did this dispensation begin?

The giving of the commandments by God to Moses. Exodus 20:1-17.

3. What is man's responsibility in this dispensation to have fellowship with God and prepare him for eternal reward and fellowship with God?

Man to be righteous before God had to walk in the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. Luke 1:6.

4. What attribute of God's character is predominate in this dispensation?

Holiness

5. What is man's test and/or failure in this dispensation?

God gave man the written law. Man rejected the law and the prophets. God also gave man the incarnate law in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Again, man rejected God's Son.

6. What is the final judgment or cataclysmic event that closes this dispensation?

This dispensation ends in judgment at Calvary with the shedding of Christ's blood. John 19:30, Matthew 26:28.

Dispensation 6

1. What is the dispensation called?

Grace

2. When did this dispensation begin?

In Acts 8, is the first time we actually see anyone saved by grace through faith and that was the Ethiopian Eunuch. In Acts 15, we see all the church leaders, Apostles, and elders come together to clear up the confusion on how a person got saved. The outcome of this meeting was that the church accepted the statement salvation is by grace through faith. The dispensation of grace begins from this point on Acts 15:7-11.

3. What is man's responsibility in this dispensation to have fellowship with God and prepare him for eternal reward and fellowship with God?

Man's responsibility to be right with God during this dispensation is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As the Bible says in Acts 15:11 - "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they."

4. What attribute of God's character is predominate in this dispensation?

Grace

5. What is man's test and/or failure in this dispensation?

Man's test is to accept God's free gift of eternal life, His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. However, by and large man will fail to do this.

6. What is the final judgment or cataclysmic event that closes this dispensation?

The cataclysmic event which closes this dispensation is the rapture of the body of Christ, the church from the earth. I Thessalonians 4:16-17.

Dispensation 7.

1. What is the dispensation called?

Tribulation.

2. When did this dispensation begin?

Begins at the rapture. At this time, the son of perdition, the Antichrist will be revealed.

3. What is man's responsibility in this dispensation to have fellowship with God and prepare him for eternal reward and fellowship with God?

As the Bible says in Matthew 24:13 - "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." A person during the tribulation will have to endure the pressure of not taking the mark of the beast and endure the pressure not to attack Israel. Also, to be right with God during this dispensation man will have to keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ - (Rev. 12:17). So, to be right with God in this dispensation there will be an element of both works and faith.

4. What attribute of God's character is predominate in this dispensation?

Judgment

5. What is man's test and/or failure in this dispensation?

Man will fail to repent during this dispensation no matter how much God's wrath is poured out.

6. What is the final judgment or cataclysmic event that closes this dispensation?

This dispensation closes with the second coming of Christ where he smites the nation with a rod of iron. (Rev. 19:11-20). The nations are judged on their treatment of the nation Israel during the tribulation. Those nations who treated Israel right will enter into the Millennium. Those nations who did not treat Israel right or just remained neutral will be destroyed. (Matthew 25: 31-46)

Dispensation 8

1. What is the dispensation called?

Millennium

2. When did this dispensation begin?

Begins after the Great Tribulation. Satan is bound and cast into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years. (Rev. 20:1)

3. What is man's responsibility in this dispensation to have fellowship with God and prepare him for eternal reward and fellowship with God?

Matthew Chapters 5,6, and 7 deal with how a person will be right with God in the Millennium. There will be very little faith involved with being right with God because Jesus will be standing right there and Jesus will be ruling right there. So, the element of keeping the law or works will be prevalent during this dispensation.

4. What attribute of God's character is predominate in this dispensation?

Righteousness.

5. What is man's test and/or failure in this dispensation?

Righteousness will be exalted during this dispensation. Yet, with righteousness exalted and with perfect conditions man in his vile and wicked nature will rebel against God. Man will try at the end of the Millennium to overthrow God. (Rev. 20:7-8)

6. What is the final judgment or cataclysmic event that closes this dispensation?

The rebellion against God is destroyed. The dead are judged at the Great White Throne Judgment. The earth and heavens are destroyed. (Rev. 20: 7-15)