

The Bible

Dispensations and Covenants

God's dealing with mankind thru the ages and His message for us today.



Presented by the Grace Gospel Church Ministry

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The Bible Dispensations and Covenants by Grace Gospel of Detroit Mi

A comprehensive syllabus on dispensations and covenants of the bible for individual and group study.
Presentation available in 3-Ring Booklets, PowerPoint and PDF formats.

The logo for Grace Gospel Ministry features a horizontal oval with a soft, multi-colored gradient background in shades of yellow, green, and purple. The text "Grace Gospel Ministry" is centered within the oval in a purple, serif font.

Grace Gospel Ministry

*For additional Bible study materials, including audio and video productions, visit our website @www.gracegospelministry.com
One of the largest online Christian resource for the doctrines of salvation!*

Prelude

Understand the True Function of the Bible

“When the scriptures are used properly, they are our greatest source of blessing, but when they are improperly applied, they can become our greatest source of confusion.” Pastor George D. Cutler.

Every portion of the Bible has been given by God to accomplish specific purposes in given eras. When each portion is properly applied to its specific period of time i.e. the dispensation or economy, for which it was intended, it should have a high value rating for that era. For example, when truth given through Moses was taught to Israel during the economy of the Law (from Mt Sinai to the Cross), it would have top rating for that era; for it would be teaching God's word to those for whom it was intended. When this is taught during the present economy of Grace, on this side of the cross, it is simply the “commandments and teachings of men” (Col.2:14-22). Hence; that which is of supreme value when properly applied, may produce detrimental confusion when improperly applied.

There is an important statement in Romans 15:4, which is pertinent to this premise, namely “for as much as was previously written, it was written for our teaching, that through the endurance and through the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope”. In Paul's discourse the portion of the Old Testament cited in Romans 15:3 was taken from Psalm 69:9, which Paul uses to prove that Christ did not please himself. Likewise, believers in this church age are not to please themselves, but through the examples of endurance and encouragement previously recorded in the Old Testament, they are to be taught and have hope. This quotation suggests that there are universal principles in the Old Testament, such as in the Psalms, which emphasize the endurance and encouragement that is in Christ, which believers are to emulate (Hebrews 11:4-38).

The Grace Gospel Church Ministry is committed to the premise that a rewarding motive and true purpose can be realized from allocating the Word of God to function according to God's intended plan for dispensing truth in the various dispensation or economies.

Introduction

Why are there so many Christian denominations?

When scripture is taken out of context or is misapplied to an era that it was not intended, it can and will lead to a misunderstanding and the misapplication of God's word. For example, in Ephesians chapter 2:8-9 it states, "For by grace are **ye saved through faith**...it is the gift of God **Not of works**, lest any man should boast", yet in the book of James chapter 2:20 it states, "**that faith without works is dead**". Is it faith not of works OR faith with works? In Exodus 31:14 it states, "*...keep the Sabbath (worship on Saturday)...for it is holy unto you*", yet in Colossians 2:16-17 it states," *Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday...or of the Sabbath days.*"

In this narrative study presentation on the Bible Dispensations and Covenants, we hope to clear up a few misguided premises that cause many seemingly diverse and conflicting doctrines, to show the rich beauty and consistency of God's Word! There are no contradictions or conflicts in the Bible when you understand particularly to whom God is speaking to (and instructing), for what purpose, and by scripturally comprehending the difference between God's dealings with mankind in times past, but now, and in things to come!

Helpful Study Guidelines

As you follow along in this dispensation and covenant study series, take notes, ask questions (or write them down to discuss later). It's a very good practice to look up each scripture reference that is given in your bible: read a few verses above and after the text to affirm that your study material is presented within the context of the scriptures. A standard King James Bible version will suffice in this lesson.

★ *A key bible study principle: “The meaning of any scripture IS always conveyed within the context of the scriptures.”* ★ *Always read a few verses above and after every text reference given: this assures that you have the correct thought conveyance within the context of the scripture, and that its application is consistent with its over arching narrative theme (or dispensation) for that period.*

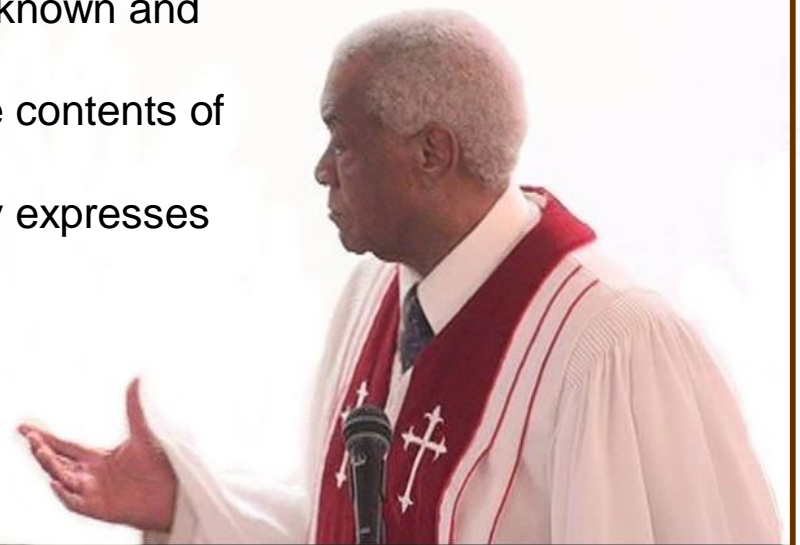
God's Word will always have alignment with three (3) basic academic principles:

HISTORICAL: It is doctrinally stated within what is known and relevant in that specific dispensational Covenant.

CONTEXTUAL: the context of the verses verifies the contents of the dialogue.

GRAMMATICAL: the grammar of a text specifically expresses relative to time, factuality and intentions' reflections (i.e., past, present, and future).

NOTE: Additional grammatical structures such as indicative/imperative mood, active/passive voice etc., are reserved for later discussions.



The Interlinear Greek - English Bible KJV

Book ID Ref: ISBN 0-310-20380-5 KJV BY Alfred Marshall. Publisher: Zondervan

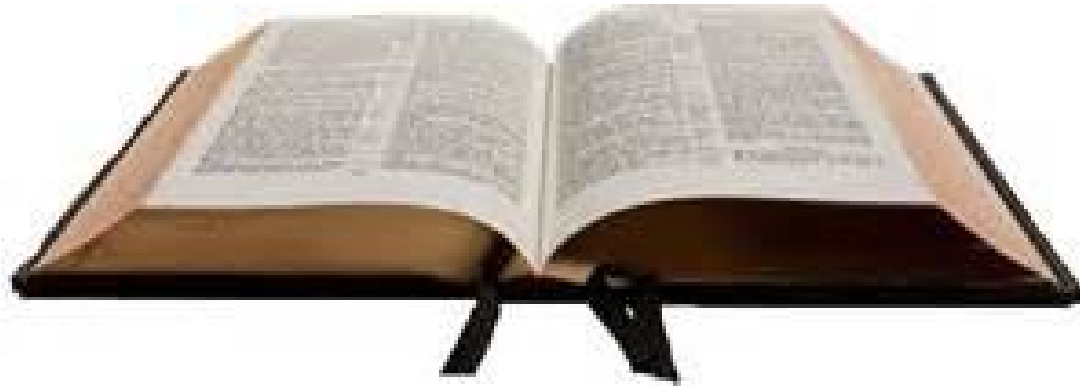
The Grace Gospel Church Ministry also utilizes the Greek interlinear Bible for the purpose of staying close as possible to the original NT biblical scrolls/codex/manuscript copies that were written in the Greek language (**Matthew through Revelation**). **In this manner we can first and foremost affirm the word translation before applying any interpretation (or misinterpretation if not translated properly). LET THE SCRIPTURES SPEAK!** This brings usage back to our earlier statement: *“the meaning of scriptures IS conveyed in the “properly translated” context of the scripture.”*

To get the most out of this study presentation, we can not stress enough, that you utilize your Bible to look up the scripture references throughout this illustrative narrative series, including those listed in each of the accompanying Pastor’s Pen excerpts, titled expositions and charts.

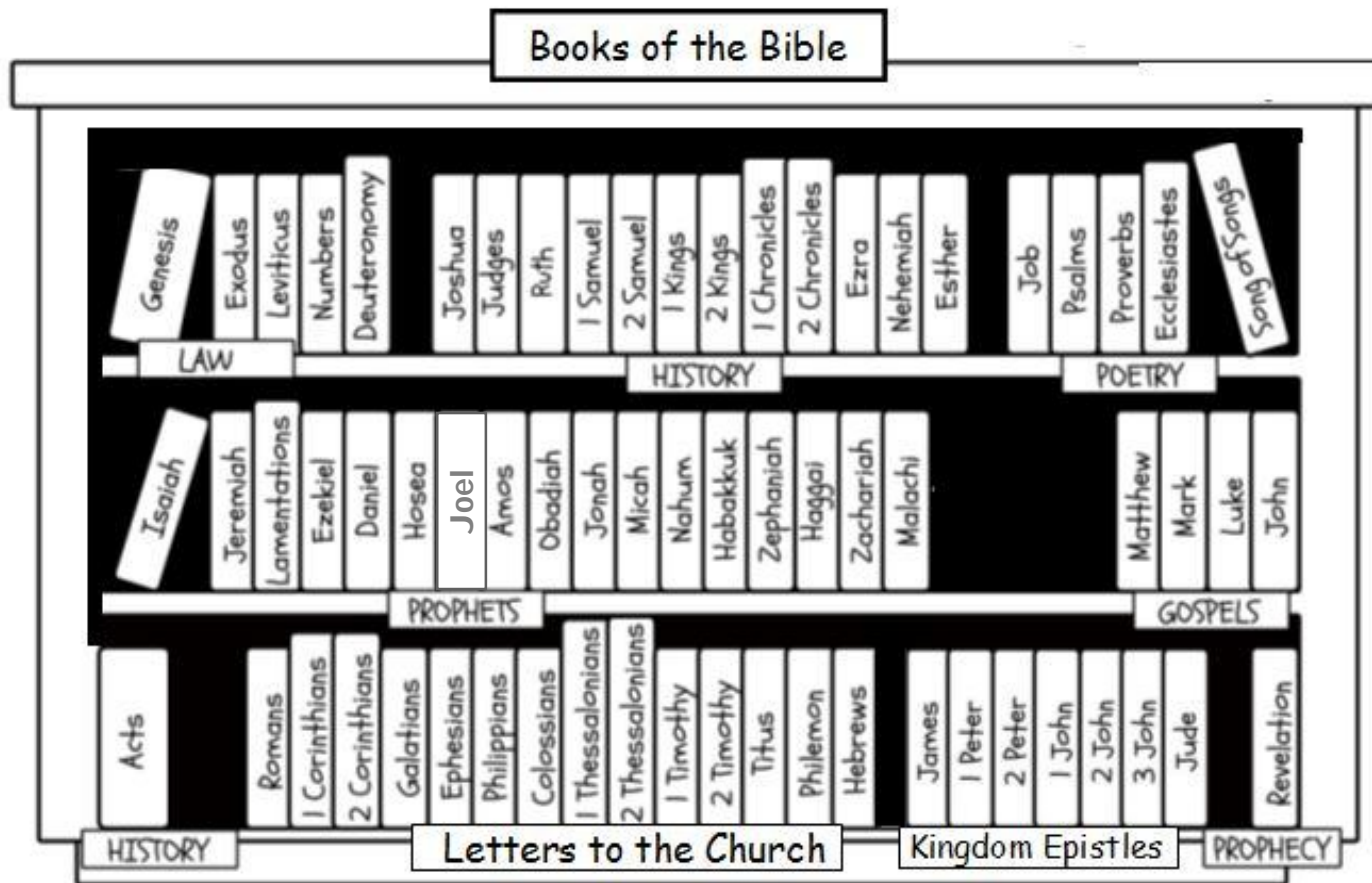
You can also search online to purchase the Interlinear Greek–English Bible and follow along as well (see book identification reference at the top of this page). We highly recommend the Greek interlinear Bible for developing elect students of God’s word.

Lets get started. God bless!

**ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN
BY INSPIRATION OF GOD,
AND IS PROFITABLE FOR
DOCTRINE, REPROOF,
CORRECTION, AND FOR
INSTRUCTION IN
RIGHTEOUSNESS.**



Scripture Reference: 2 Timothy 3:16



The bible is a collection of 66 books written by 40 authors over a period of about 1,500 years. It is the infallible Word of God, a historical record of all that exist, and a **Testament** of God's dealings with mankind through the ages.

Books of the Bible

Genesis	Ecclesiastes	Matthew	James
Exodus	Song of	Mark	1 Peter
Leviticus	Solomon	Luke	2 Peter
Numbers	Isaiah	John	1 John
Deuteronomy	Jeremiah	Acts	2 John
Joshua	Lamentations	Romans	3 John
Judges	Ezekiel	1 Corinthians	Jude
Ruth	Daniel	2 Corinthians	Revelation
1 Samuel	Hosea	Galatians	
2 Samuel	Joel	Ephesians	
1 Kings	Amos	Philippians	
2 Kings	Obadiah	Colossians	
1 Chronicles	Jonah	1 Thessalonians	
2 Chronicles	Micah	2 Thessalonians	
Ezra	Nahum	1 Timothy	
Nehemiah	Habakkuk	2 Timothy	
Esther	Zephaniah	Titus	
Job	Haggai	Philemon	
Psalms	Zechariah	Hebrews	
Proverbs	Malachi		

The word "Testament" in the bible is translated both covenant and testament, which denotes both a contract and will.



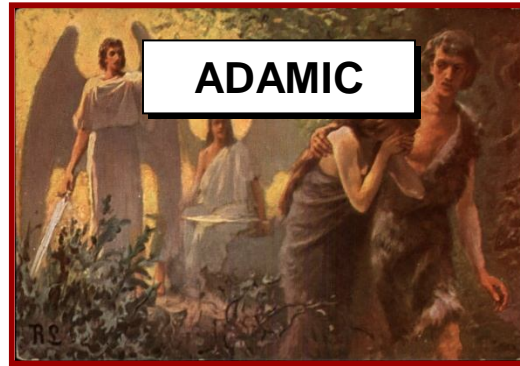
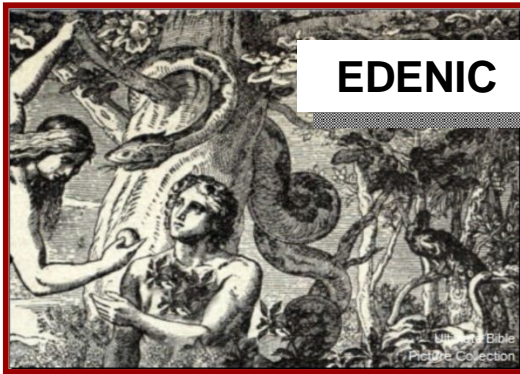
The standard practice of dividing the Bible into only two sections, namely (1) the Old Testament and (2) the New Testament is widely misunderstood and **inaccurate**, and can lead to confusion and contradictions when seeking to relate doctrinal principles for today.

When we look at the messages of the Bible, the designation Old and New Testament could not possibly represent the entire covenant arrangements that God made with mankind down through the ages of time.

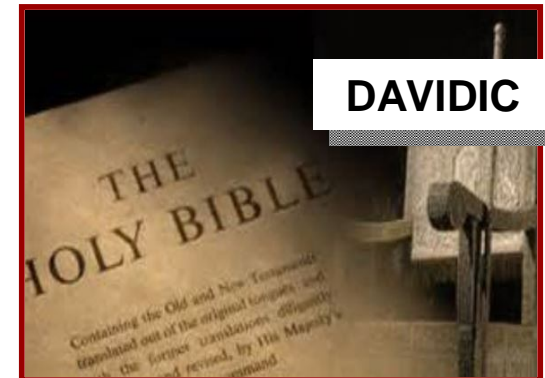


In order to receive the right message for our lives today, you must divide the bible according to the correct **dispensation and covenant that applies to you today!**

(Covenants Listed by Name)



Thus the division of the Bible are not actually two-fold, (**old and new covenants**), but **seven** as defined by the various dispensations of God's covenant dealings with mankind during the ages.



Dispensations

• Administrations, House rules or Economies.

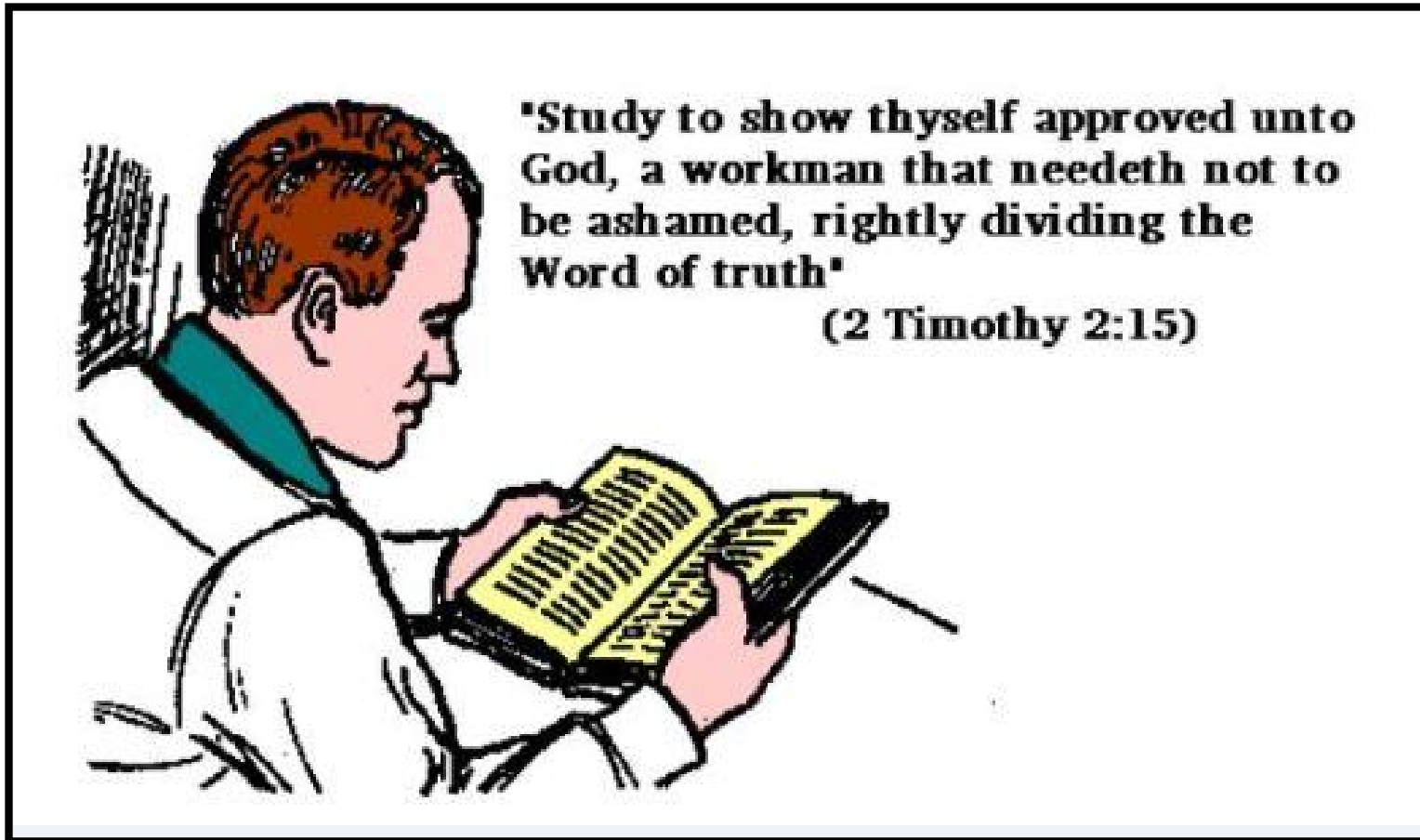
DISPENSATION

To dispense or administer an economy, administration or house rule. A particular program or set of operating instructions that GOD dispenses for man's obedience during a time period. A dispensation is not the time period, however it covers a period of time. The issue is **the policy, program, or instructions**, not time. Remember time is an interval of space GOD sets to implement His will and purpose.

COVENANT

A pledge, alliance, contract or agreement between two or more parties. There are 2 types of covenants between GOD and man.

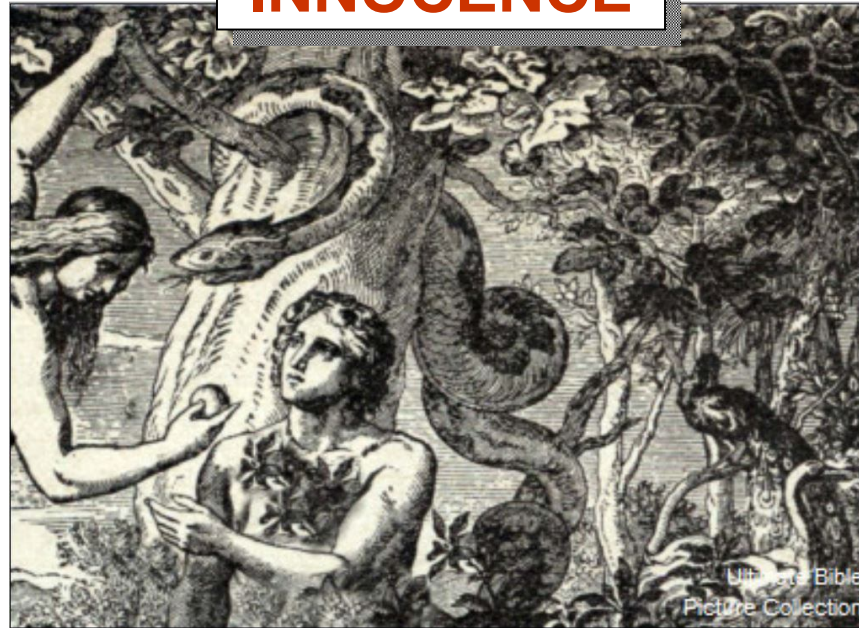
1. **Unilateral or unconditional** meaning all obligations are the responsibility of GOD, no responsibility placed upon mankind to effectuate the covenant.
2. **Bilateral or conditional** meaning mankind is required to do certain things in order to effectuate (to bring about or cause to exist) the covenant.



Lets go over each dispensation narrative in the Bible and look at God's unique covenant dealings with man thru the ages. **Here, in Geneses chapter two** we see God's initial relationship with the first human beings-Adam & Eve.

They were naked and not ashamed (having no knowledge of sin).
The garden of **Eden** is where we begin with our first Dispensation of

INNOCENCE

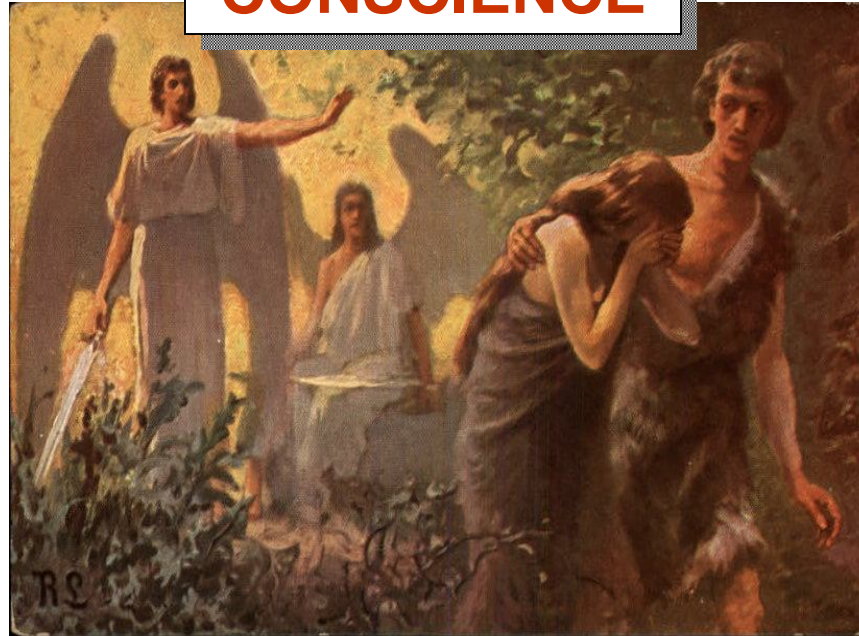


1

Adam walked with God in the cool of the day. God gave Adam one **condition**, “do not eat of the tree of good and evil”: for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die (Gen. 1:3-2:25).

Tricked by the serpent, **Adam & Eve** ate the forbidden fruit and their eyes were open to evil. This is the second Dispensation of

CONSCIENCE



2

Naked and ashamed (being exposed to the influences of evil), Adam & Eve were banned from the garden and the tree of life: separated from God because of the nature of sin (Gen. 3:15-19).

Evil grew over the land and God caused a great flood upon the earth: saving only those in **Noah's** ark. Enter the Dispensation of

HUMAN GOVERNMENT



3

God promised not to destroy the earth again by water; making the rainbow in the sky for a token of His word. Noah's family and all the living creatures upon the ark were used by God to replenish the earth (Gen 9:5-Ch.12).

Then God called **Abraham** out from the people to a promised land; to be a blessing to all nations. This sets apart the fourth Dispensation of

PROMISE



4

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, "...go unto a land that I will shew thee...I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great.. and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed (Gen 12:1-3 thru Exodus 19:13).

Later, God called **Moses** to deliver Israel from slavery, and to give Israel exclusive Laws & Commandments to follow. This is the Dispensation of

LAW



5

Therefore, "if ye will obey my voice...and keep my covenant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people...And you shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. **These are the words God spoke to the children of Israel** (Ex. 19:5- Malachi 4:6).

Transitioning Between the Testaments

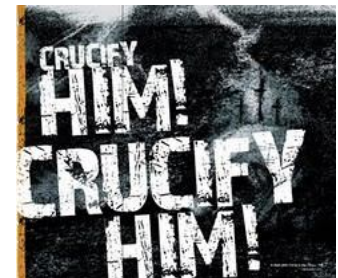
NOTE: The time between the last writings of Malachi and the appearance of Christ is known as the “intertestamental” (or “between the testaments”) period: there was no prophetic word from God during this period, some refer to it as the “400 silent years.”

The four Gospels continues the narratives under the Law with the virgin birth of our Lord Jesus “Christ” (the Anointed One of God), recording His life of 33 years, the ministry and miracles on behalf of Jews - to confirm the promises made to the fathers (with the presentation of the Kingdom that is rejected by the Jewish leaders of His time).



Jesus foretells the result of Israel’s rejection in the parable of the wicked tenants. Mathew 21:43-45

“Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.”



The rejection of the Kingdom by Israel and its subsequent manifest delay.

After Jesus' death, burial, resurrection and ascension into the Heavens, the book of Acts (“Acts of the Apostles”) records the pivotal transition from Law (with the rejection of the Kingdom) to a new dispensation predominantly to the **Gentiles** (Acts 13:45-48). **Jesus Himself manifestly initiates the transitional process in ACTS 9:3-6 on the road to Damascus: through a persecutor of the early church by one named Saul of Tarsus.**

God reveals the Church (the Body of Christ) to **Apostle Paul** to minister to the Gentiles. This “**Grace-Mystery-Truth**” is our present Dispensation of

GRACE



6

“I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward ...that by revelation God made known unto me the mystery...That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel”. (Eph. 3:1-6)

Does that mean we (Gentiles) are now considered “spiritual Israel” under the Law, and heirs to Israel’s earthly blessings and promised land?



No. It was pointed out in earlier writings that the Bible contains many specific messages for given individuals and nations. Some of these have either been, are being or are to be fulfilled.

📖 Romans 15:4; 8-9

4 For as much as was previously written, it was written for our **learning**, in order that through patience and comfort of the scriptures we might have hope.

8 For I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises of the fathers:

9 And the Gentiles on behalf of mercy to glorify God, even as it is (has been) written: on account of this I will confess you among the Gentiles and I will sing to your name.



NOTE: the word “learning” is better interrupted “*teach or teaching*” (as rendered in the original Greek text), *which is to be “taught” in light of the higher knowledge base on the Grace Mystery Gospel and covenant.*

📖 Ephesians 1:3 states that God has blessed us Gentiles with **each and every spiritual blessing in the Heavens in Christ Jesus.**



This is the Church, "The Body of Christ"

"...we have been made children and heirs of God...and joint-heirs with Christ." Romans 8:16-17

This is the Gospel (or "good news") of the Grace of God for the present dispensation of grace.

THE BODY OF CHRIST

The spiritual entity called the Church

The Church, the Body of Christ, is the called out people of the dispensation of grace. Both this Church and this dispensation had their beginning before the foundation of the world; it was a mystery of God hidden throughout the ages until God revealed it to the Apostle Paul for the grace dispensation.

COLOSSIANS 1:25-27

Paul's epistle to the Church in Colossae

“Whereof I am made a minister, **according to the dispensation of God** which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God; **Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations**, but now is made manifest to His saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory”.

BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST

*Turning from a religious organization governed by the Law and penalty (Israel),
to a spiritual organism governed by Love and God's grace (Gentiles).*

Ephesians 4:15-16. "...speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, *even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*"

The Apostle Paul makes the comparison between the human body and the Body of Christ to parallel our instructions in this grace dispensation. First, we must understand that "the whole body [is] fitly joined together: *God's marvelous wisdom has properly placed the foot, the head, the eye, and all the parts of the body in exactly the right place to function at its very best.* This is true for all believers. In His wisdom, God's sovereignty leads us to the place where we best fit and where He can best use us in the cause of Christ.



Also Read Ephesians 4:11-14 - Building up the Body of Christ.



Comprehending the Grace Gospel Mystery

In his epistle to the Colossians, the apostle Paul states (from the Greek text) *"That their hearts might be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and unto all the riches of full assurance of understanding, unto a perfect knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ"* (Col. 2:2). According to this verse, there is a threefold purpose in comprehending the truth of the Mystery. First, it is that the hearts of believers might be, rendered "encouraged", "exhorted", and "comforted". *Here the idea is set forth that it is through the teaching and understanding of the truth of the Mystery that our hearts are exhorted and comforted.* The Greek word translated "hearts" actually denotes a meaning comparable to the English word "mind"; which expresses the idea of a balance between the intellectual and the emotional. Thus believers are encouraged as a result of intellectually comprehending the truth of the Mystery; which mentally and emotionally comforts the heart (mind).

Second, those who learn the truth of the Mystery are knit together in love, as we are able to comprehend all the riches of full assurance that belong to understanding. The fact of, rendered "having been knit together in love", is expressed by the aorist tense and passive voice as it refers to the work that the Holy Spirit accomplishes in our lives. Thus, as we are united in love with other believers who understand the wisdom of the Mystery, we rejoice in the riches that come from being fully assured, convinced and persuaded in Mystery Truth, which is truth for the body of Christ.

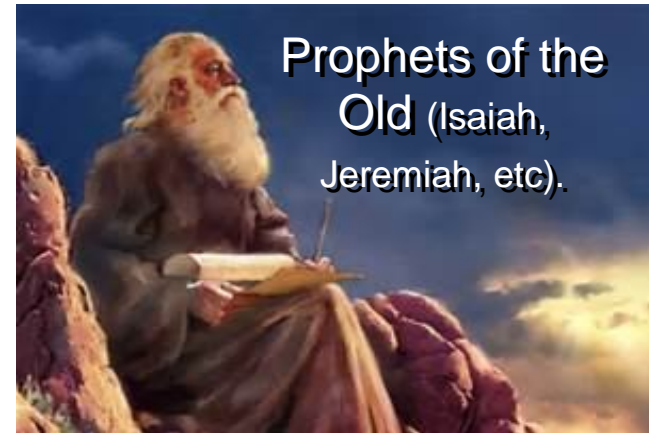
Third, those who perfectly know the Mystery of God (Christ), as a result of the knowledge of the Mystery, are able to abide in the truth which involves our relation to Christ as head over the church and how we are to live in him.

God's people are thoroughly enriched and comforted as we are fully assured in the truth of the Mystery, which is the message for the Church today. We believe "full assurance" comes from understanding the results in our full conviction and persuasion to stand in the face of the many adversities that we encounter daily.

Christ is Lord over All

It is true that in the prophets and the four Gospels (Mathew, Mark, Luke and John), we learn that Christ is God and that He is Lord over all creation; **but the Apostle Paul's letters to the church (Romans - Hebrews) are the first and only place we learn that Christ is the Head of the Body-the Church!**

Hebrews 1:1-2. “God, who at sundry **times** and in divers manners spoke in time **past** unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds.”



With regards to Israel and the promised kingdom, He (Jesus) is their Christ or King and the High Priest. He is Israel's Lord and Christ, but today He is more! **He is Head over a preordained church, a heavenly essence that did not have its beginning with Israel on the day of Pentecost.**

Describing the Various Covenants



Many of God's people do not differentiate between the various messages of the when they read God's word. However, the Bible specifically identifies and describes the various covenants (contracts or agreements) set forth by God throughout the ages as He spoke to certain individuals, groups and nations. It is also important for one to understand that God's method of communication in this age is exclusively through His written word as recorded in the Holy Scriptures (the Bible).

In the Hebrew epistle, the Apostle Paul states (from the Greek Text), "In these last days He has spoken to us in the Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the ages" (Heb. 1:2). Here we note the Greek word rendered "in these last days", as it denotes the period subsequent to the era of the prophetic utterances, signs and visions that were almost exclusively relied upon for communications from God in previous times.

As we examine the clause translated "He has spoken to us in the Son." We note the two distinct messages spoken "in these last days (ages)," namely (1) the gospel of the Kingdom, during His ministry while he was on earth and (2) the gospel of the grace of God that He revealed from Heaven (Matt. 4:17; 10:7; Gal. 1:12; Acts 20:24; Eph. 3:2-9). It should be understood that this line of demarcation is clearly established by the fact that the gospel of the Kingdom contained a **pre-Cross message**, as contrasted to the gospel of the grace of God which contains a **post-Cross message**; which is based solely and entirely upon what Jesus Christ accomplished on the Cross.

Observe the Greek phrase translated "whom He appointed heir of all things", as it denotes that the Son received, inherited, and came into possession of all things. Also note the Greek phrase rendered "through whom also He made the ages". Here the thought is conveyed that God made the worlds or ages or universe through His Son, Jesus.

Okay, so what about the story in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (depictions under the Law) whereby the 12 disciples were looking for Christ to **fulfill** the prophecy given to their forefathers...



...that the Messiah would come and lead the Jews into their earthly kingdom. **Has God forgotten His people Israel?**

"God forbid! I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery...that blindness in part is happened to **I**srael, until the fulness of the gentiles be come in...



...And so all I srael shall be saved: **as it is written...**

“...There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer...For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins”.

(Narrative readings from  Romans 11:25-27)



Genealogy Note: Jacob's twelve sons (in order of birth), Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin, become the ancestors of twelve tribes.

So, when the Grace period ends, **Jesus** later returns as **King** to the throne of David to fulfill God's covenant made with **the Nation Israel**.

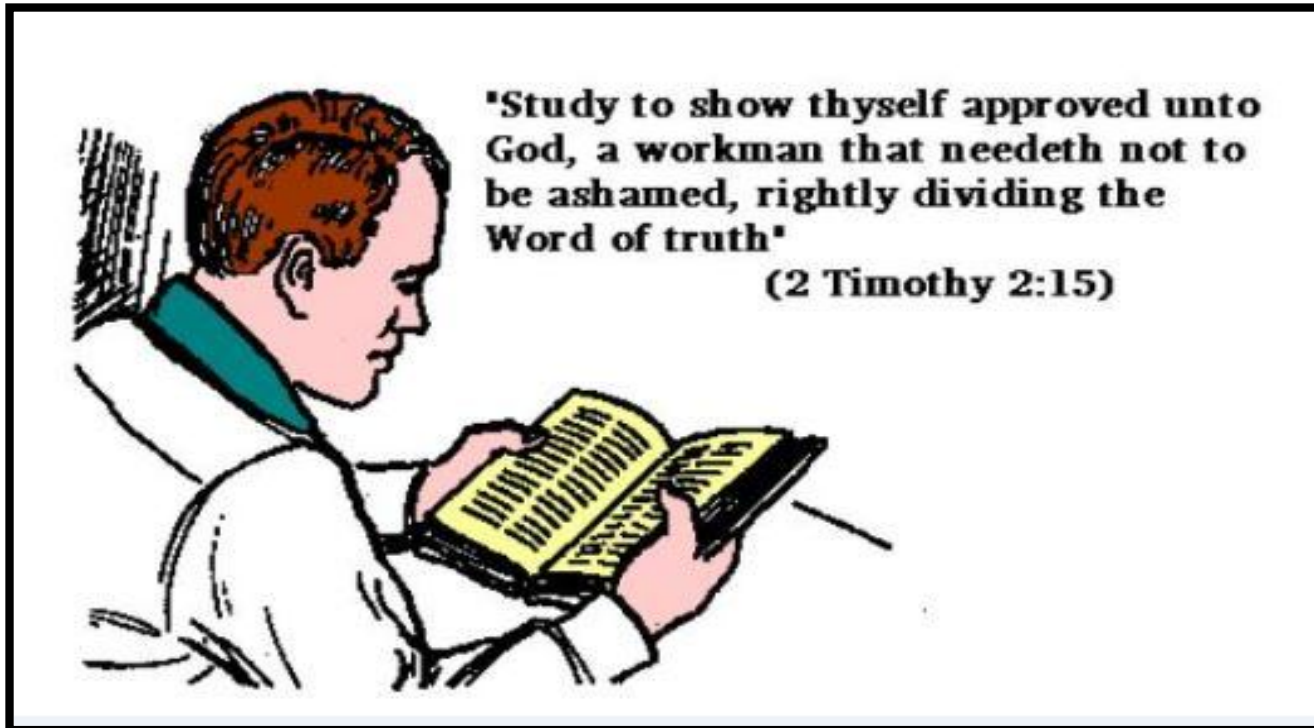
This is the seventh and future dispensation of the

KINGDOM



7

“He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1;32-33. Rev. Ch. 21).

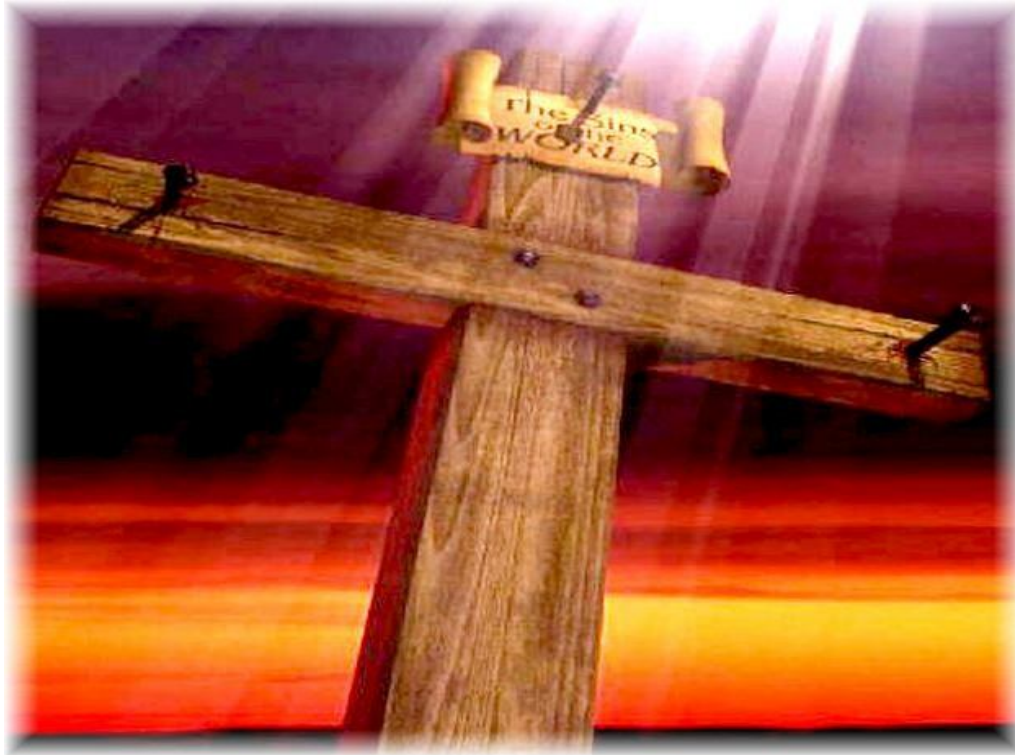


In light of God's designated and progressive policy-dealings with mankind during the ages, there are no contradictions in the Bible as long as its contents are kept in their intended historical setting. In other words, the scriptures cannot be rightly divided unless they are arranged by dispensations.



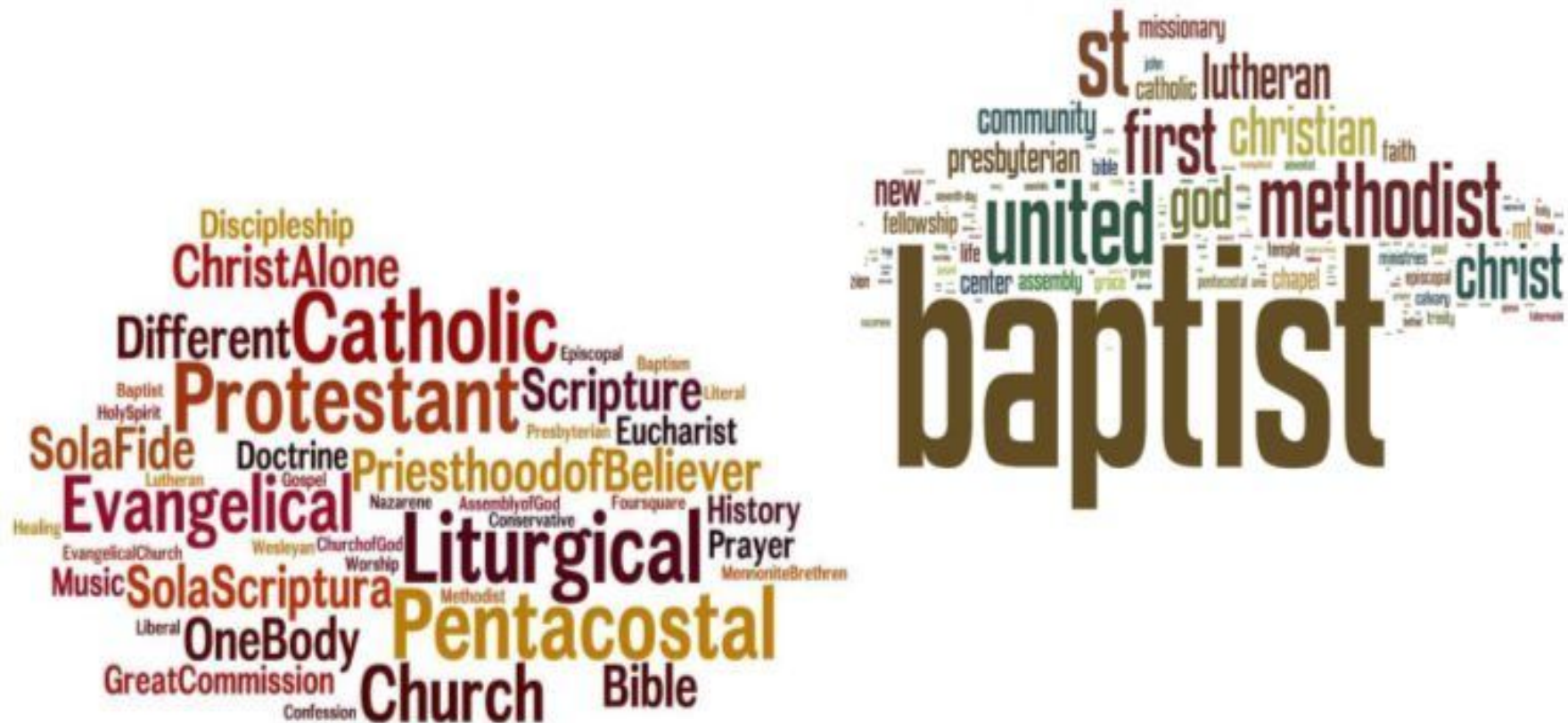
We can therefore note that those things, which are true and relevant to **Adam in the dispensation of innocence**, may or may not be applicable or relevant to **Adam in the dispensation of conscience**.

- The policy for **Noah in the dispensation of human government** is distinct from the covenant that is made to **Abraham in the dispensation of promise**.
- The Law and its ordinances as given to **Moses exclusively for Israel** are not transferable to other nations in **the dispensation of the Law**.
- The Kingdom Gospel** introduced by John the Baptist; though rejected by Israel, is yet reserved for the **Jews and Commonwealth of Israel during the tribulation** and Kingdom Age (Romans 11:22-32).
- The gospel of the grace of God as revealed to the Apostle Paul is given solely for the elect, the Church, who is the body of Christ, in the dispensation of grace.



KEY NOTE: The sacrificial death of Jesus upon Calvary covers the span of all dispensations as the only remedy for the sin nature of mankind.

Mixing the messages of the bible can only result in confusion, contradictions and incorrect doctrinal teaching for this era.



This is one of the reasons we find countless fractions and diverse Christian denominations, rituals and practices today.

Okay, lets go over what we understand from the grace gospel doctrines,



•ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD, •AND IS PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE, REPROOF, CORRECTION, AND FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Yes. Scripture is profitable for doctrine, reproof and correction, but only when it's "rightly divided" by dispensations and covenants.

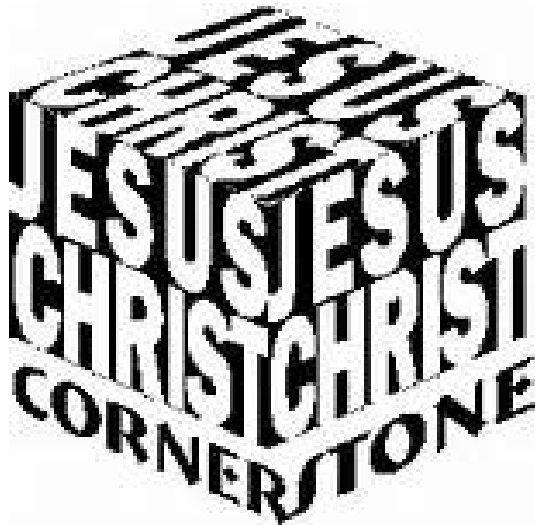
And for our instruction in righteousness? It's walking by faith in the only Righteous One, the Lord Jesus Christ, and not ourselves.

As believers, we conform and perform within the strength God gives us by His Holy Spirit, and not by exterior tutorship of rules under the law (Gal. 3:24-26). Lets read and learn how Israel stumbled over this very stumbling block of works in Romans 9:31-32; 10:3-4;6:14.




Romans 9:31-32; 10:3-4

“But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? *Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone”*



“For they (Israel) being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”

“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”  **Romans 6:14**

 Ephesians 1:6

“To the praise of the glory of God’s grace whereby He has made us (Gentiles) accepted in the beloved”.

God has made us unblameable in the Body of Christ! “We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (Eph 2:10; 1:5, 9).

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure (Phil 2:13). Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phi. 1:6).



Now, Lets go back over the seven dispensations & covenant names and their related scripture references for our study and notes.

The First Dispensation of **INNOCENCE**

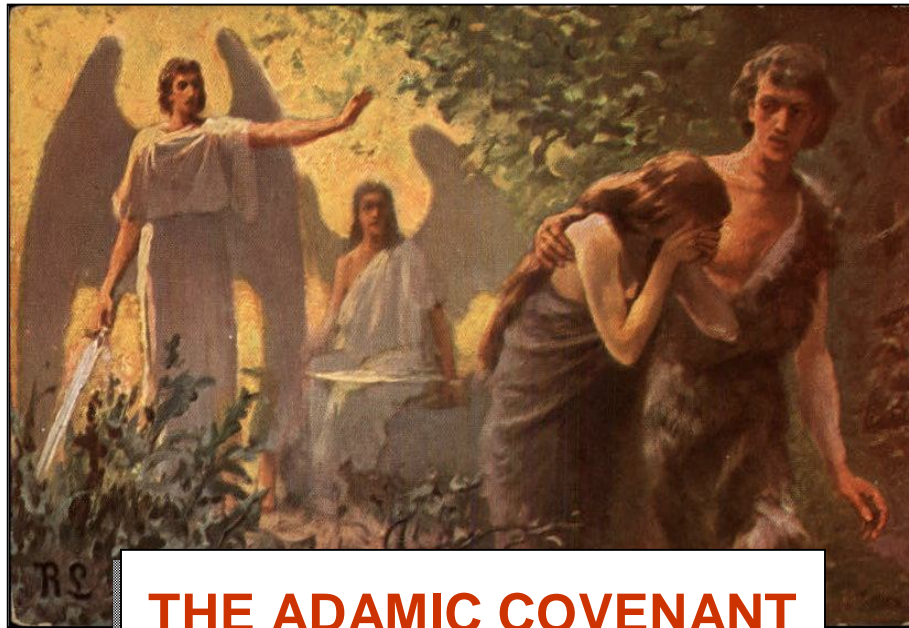


THE EDENIC COVENANT
Read Genesis 1:26-30

Wherein God created all living creatures upon the earth (Genesis 2:8-17, 25). **Adam heads this economy.**

Exercise: Look up and verify each scripture reference in your bible.

The Second Dispensation of **CONSCIENCE**



THE ADAMIC COVENANT

Read Genesis 3:15-19

Wherein Adam and (Eve) fell into sin and all the earth received the curse and penalty of sin (Genesis 3:10-18, Romans 2:11-15). **Adam heads this economy.**

Exercise: Look up and verify each scripture reference in your bible.

The Third Dispensation **HUMAN GOVERNMENT**

THE NOAHIC COVENANT

Read Genesis 9:8-17



Which came after the flood, This dispensation was the first wherein God established civil rule (Genesis 9:6 Romans 13:1).

Noah heads this economy.

Exercise: Look up and verify each scripture reference in your bible.

The Fourth Dispensation **PROMISE**



ABRAHAMIC COVENANT
Read Genesis 12:1-3

Wherein God called and separated Abraham and ultimately created from Abraham one sanctified nation (Israel) to be His elect or His people (Genesis 12:1-3; 22:17-18). **Abraham** **heads this economy.**

Exercise: Look up and verify each scripture reference in your bible.

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The Fifth Dispensation of **LAW**

THE MOSAIC COVENANT

Read Exodus 9:5-8



Wherein God gave His Law and ordinances exclusively to His people Israel (Exodus 20:1-26; Galatians 3:19). **Moses heads this economy.**

Exercise: Look up and verify each scripture reference in your bible.

The present (Grace-Mystery-Truth) Dispensation of **GRACE**

THE GRACE COVENANT

Read Ephesians Ch. 3



The Body of Christ, the Church is revealed & manifested. Also, God's elect for this economy is comprised of all of mankind (both Jew and Gentile) (Romans 5:20-21 Ephesians 3:1-9). Paul heads this economy.

Exercise: Look up and verify each scripture reference in your bible.

The future (prophecy) Dispensation of the **KINGDOM**

**THE DAVIDIC
COVENANT**



**II Samuel 7:4-17
Deut. 30:1-10
Jeremiah 31:31-40**

Jesus Christ's return to the earth to set on the throne of David and rule this earth in perfect peace for one thousand years (Isaiah 9:6-7:11:1-9). **Jesus Christ heads this economy.**

Exercise: Look up and verify each scripture reference in your bible.

DISPENSATION and COVENANT CHART

DISPENSATION	REFERENCE of DISPENSATION	COVENANT for DISPENSATION	REFERENCE for COVENANT	TYPE of COVENANT	ELECT of the DISPENSATION and FEDERAL HEADSHIP
INNOCENCE	GEN 1:3-2:25	EDENIC	GEN. 1:26-30	BILATERAL	ADAM AND EVE ADAM is federal head
CONSCIENCE	GEN 3:6	ADAMIC	GEN 3:15-19	BILATERAL	ADAM AND EVE ADAM is federal head
HUMAN GOVERNMENT	GEN 9:5 thru GEN. Ch. 12	NOAHIC	GEN 9:8-17	UNILATERAL	NOAH AND HIS FAMILY & OTHERS NOAH is federal head
PROMISE	GEN 12:1-3 thru EXODUS 19:13	ABRAHAMIC	GEN 12:1-3	UNILATERAL	ABRAHAM - ISRAEL ABRAHAM is federal head
LAW	EXODUS Ch. 20-31- ACTS	MOSIAC	EXODUS 19:5-8	BILATERAL	ISRAEL MOSES is federal head
GRACE (Present Admin.)	EPISTLES OF PAUL	MYSTERY GRACE TRUTH	EPHESIANS Ch. 3	UNILATERAL	BODY OF CHRIST ISREAL AND GENTILES PAUL is federal head
KINGDOM (Future Admin.)	REV Ch 21	DAVIDIC PALESTINIAN NEW COVENANT	II SAMUEL 7:4-17 DEUT 30:1-10 JEREMIAH 31:31-40	UNILATERAL	ISRAEL FIRST-GENTILES BLESSED thru ISRAEL JESUS is federal head

Question: What is the Difference?

JESUS SAID, “As ye go preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 10:7).
PAUL SAID, “...The ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, To testify the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24).

JESUS SAID, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16).
PAUL SAID, “Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel” (I Corinthians 1:17).

JESUS SAID, “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or Wherewith shall we be clothed?...For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of these things” (Matthew 6:31-32).

PAUL SAID, “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel (unbeliever).” (I Timothy 5:8).

JESUS SAID, “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:14-15).

PAUL SAID, “Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:32).

JESUS SAID, “An all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive” (Matthew 21:22).

PAUL SAID, “...for we know not what we should pray for as we ought” (Romans 8:26).

Answer Romans 15:8;16

“Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers’.” [Dispensation: Law. Covenant type: Bilateral]

“That I (Paul speaking) should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.” [Dispensation: Grace. Covenant type: Unilateral]

Distinguishing the Gospels



If we are true ministers who are led by the Spirit of God, we will acknowledge that Paul’s gospel (Mystery Truth) is the commandment of God for this dispensation (I Corinthians 14:37). Thus we are instructed not to preach any other gospel in this present dispensation (including Kingdom) (Galatians 1:6-8; I Timothy 1:3;6:3). It is certainly proper to maintain that when one teaches from the Bible he is teaching the truth in general. The basic principle of the Bible contents is truth; no account of any action or event recorded therein should ever be doubted or disputed. However, in order to obtain proper instructions, we as students of the word must be able to distinguish the principles that are applicable to us (the elect) in the grace age.

Apostle Paul, the 12 disciples and the Judaizers

Throughout the book of Acts and particularly in Galatians, the scriptures record Paul's challenges with introducing and proclaiming the gospel of the Grace of God to the Gentiles during the first century of the grace dispensation.

Paul's greatest challenge came from the religious rulers of his time, the legalistic Judaizers steeped in the Old Testament customs and Laws, and early on in his ministry, with some evangelical conflict from the disciples who had walked with Jesus.

★ Key Note: The common denominator between the **grace message** and the **kingdom message** is the **Lord Jesus Christ**. However Paul's commission was to preach "**Jesus Christ according to grace-mystery-truth**" ★ *for the present dispensation* (predominantly to the Gentiles), while the 12 disciples commission was to preach "**Jesus Christ according to prophecy**" ★ *as it relates to a future dispensation* of the Kingdom gospel (predominantly to the Jews).

Biblical Showdown

The scriptures record a face to face confrontation between Paul and Peter (one of the 12 disciples) who had demonstrated adherences to the Law among the Gentiles; annulling the grace gospel truth that Paul had ministered to the gentiles in that city. Here the Apostle Paul confronts and corrects one of the boldest disciples of the kingdom gospel; one who had gained great reputation among kingdom saints; Peter.

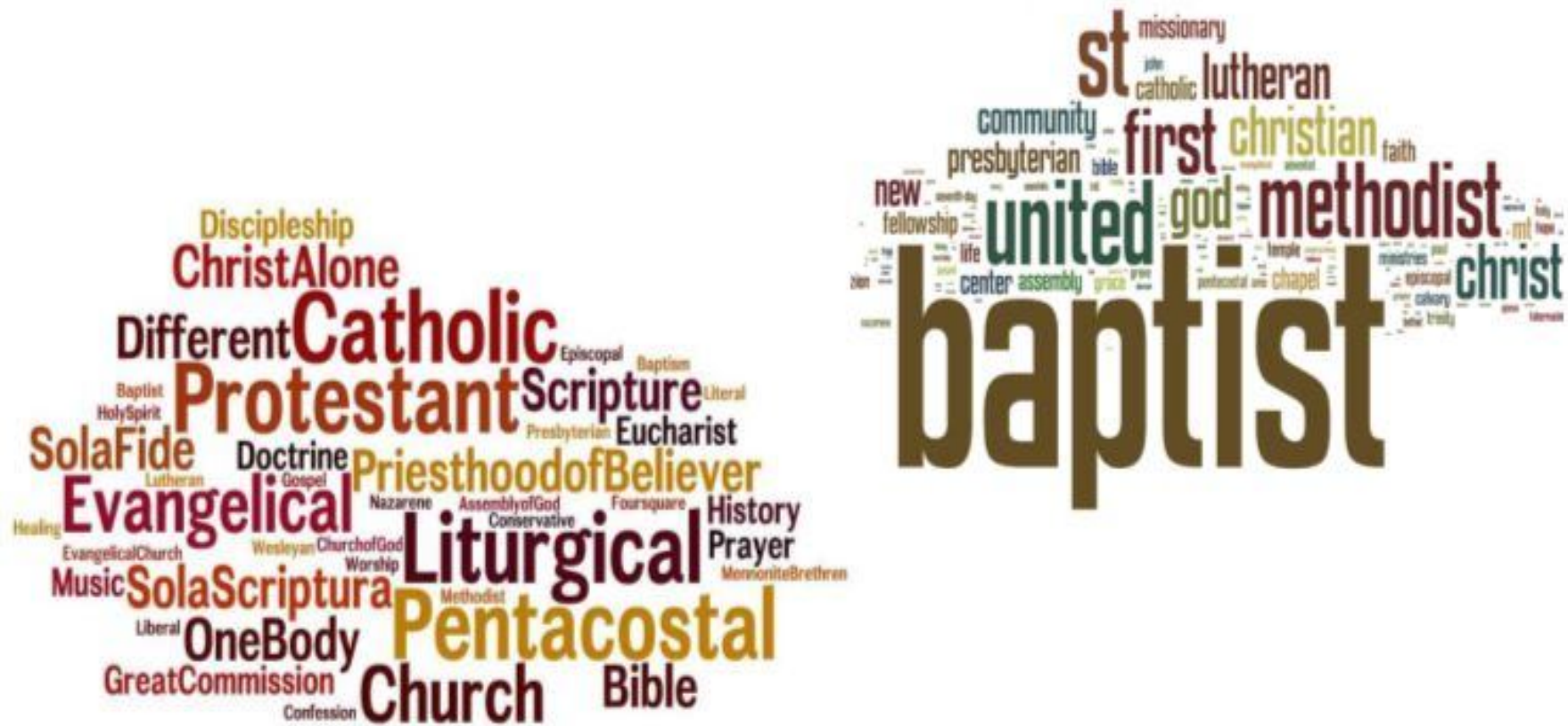
Galatians 2:11-21

The Biblical showdown between Paul and Peter

But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed (for his defecting from the grace gospel message and giving adherence to Jewish laws and customs before the gentile). For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the (Grace) gospel, I said unto Peter before *them all*, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? *We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,* Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, *is therefore Christ the minister of sin?* God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the Grace of God: for if righteousness *come* by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Mixing the messages of the Bible can only result in confusion, contradictions and incorrect doctrinal teaching for this era.



This is one of the reasons we find countless fractions and diverse Christian denominations, rituals and practices today.

★ A strict biblical warning about mixing Grace with Law!

 **Galatians 1:6-12**

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but **there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.** But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **let him be accursed.** As we said before, so say I now again, ★ **If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed (Galatians 1:6-9).**

...and by Whose Authority?

“For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not **be** the servant of Christ. **But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.** For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, **but by the revelation of Jesus Christ**” (Galatians 1:10-12).

Key Review Notes

The Kingdom Gospel (PROPHECY) clearly speaks of God's covenant *predominantly* to the Jews, and recorded throughout the Old Testament (Genesis through Acts Chapter 1-8)

.....while **the Grace Gospel** (Mystery) in this dispensation proclaims God's unveiling mercy *predominantly* to the Gentiles, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God (Eph 3:9), and now revealed through **the epistles to the Grace Church, Romans - Hebrews.**



"Distinguishing the Gospel Messages"

The main difference is that the Kingdom message is dealing with eternal earthly blessings, and the Grace message deals with eternal spiritual blessings that are heavenly.

What can we conclude therefore looking back from our gospel?



That Adam, a “sin natured” moral agent was subject to sin. Yes, in Romans 8:20 it confirms that creation was made subjected to **vanity** in hope, according to God’s plan to manifested deliverance to His children. So, we put no confidence in our flesh as we walk with God! We walk by faith in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

And with Noah, God showed His mercy saving “some” in an ark, and again being mindful of man (His elect) whereby He called Abraham out from the people to birth a peculiar people unto Himself; blessing them above all nations and kingdoms.

Yet, the bible later reveals that even His chosen people Israel sinned over and over against Him; eventually seeking their own righteousness thru the Law (Roman 10:2-3) and their many religious rituals.

And Gentiles manifestly had no hope and without God in the world!

•But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) Eph. 2:4-5, and here Eph. 1:4, "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be without blame before Him in love."



•Romans 15:4;9 "For as much as was previously written, it was written for our learning, in order that through patience and comfort of the scriptures we might have hope" (scriptures point out that our hope, comfort, grace AND peace is knowing we are sealed in Christ Jesus).


•And the Gentiles (that's us) on behalf of mercy to glorify God, even as it is (has been) written, on account of this I will confess you among the Gentiles and I will sing to your name. Hallelujah! Praise God for His eternal workings for us in Christ!

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



Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory”

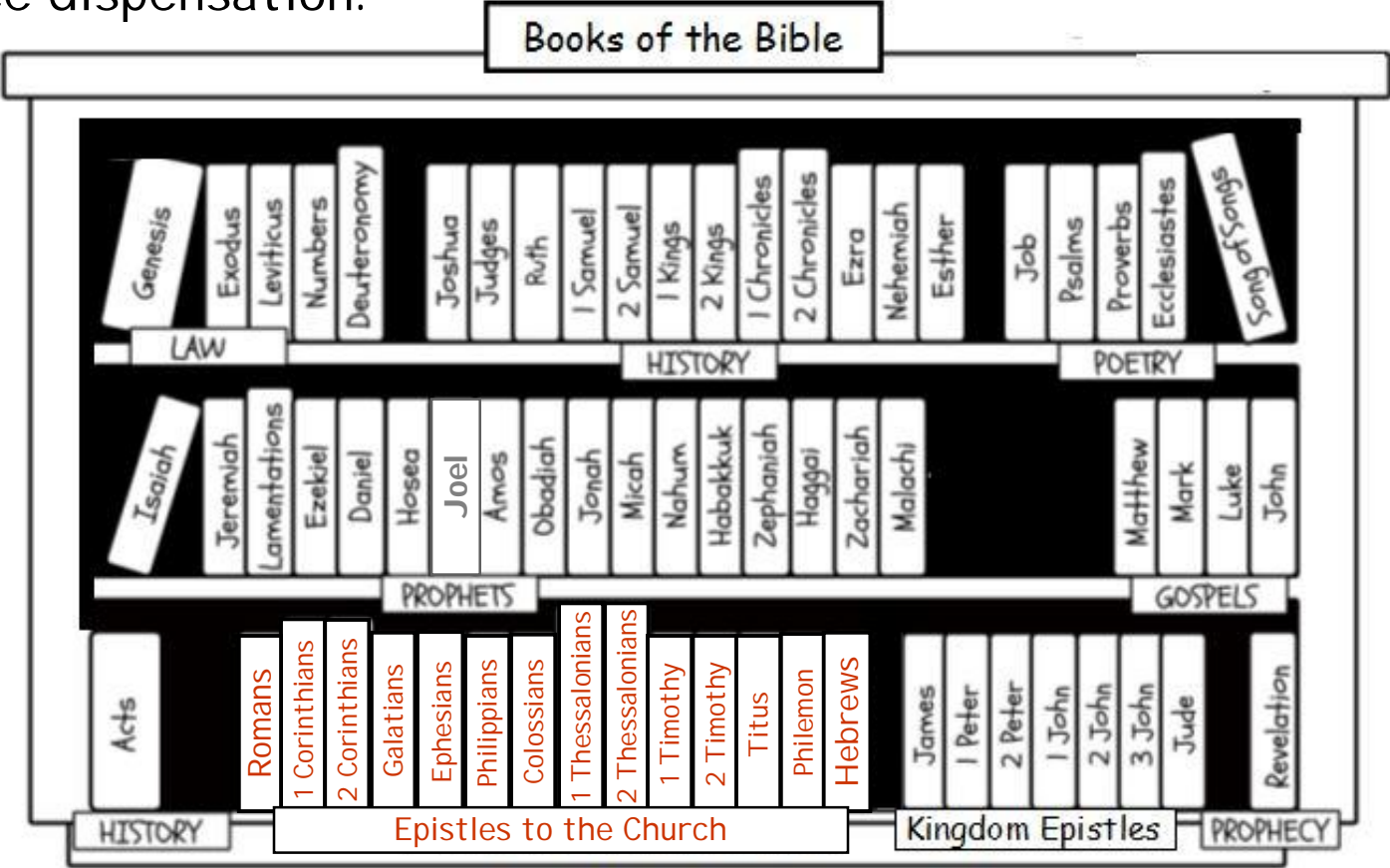
Colossians 1:24-27

 **Ephesians 3:1:9** “For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery;

(as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages 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: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of His power.

Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.”

We affirm that Paul's epistles to the Church form the base of the "Grace Mystery Truth" doctrine (teaching) for this present grace dispensation.



These volume of truths provide instructions for our daily living; for the building up and edification (spiritual food & nourishment) for the **Body of Christ**.

CLOSING REMARKS FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Cutler", written in a cursive style.

Pastor George D. Cutler



Today we find ourselves inundated with many diversities and perceptions of what the truth of the word of God is. In Spite of this we should be encouraged that there is an answer and a basis for hope. *The solution is found in rightly handling the word of God (II Tim. 2:15). If we will take the Bible literally and keep each book and letter in its intended orbit, we will be moving toward distinguishing between things that differ (Phil. 1:9-10).*

As we spiritually and intelligently approach the Bible in this manner, we are compelled to reorganize the distinct revelations of truths for the Church, the body of Christ, which was given to the Apostle Paul (I Corth. 2:6-10, Gal 1:12).

*Paul refers to this message for the Church as “my gospel” (Rom. 2:16; 16:25-26, II Tim 2:8) and as the “gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24). **This means that in the dispensation of grace age, we should be majoring in the epistles written to the churches, namely Paul’s and those in alignment with them.***

*Once it is fully understood that the primary messages for the dispensation of grace is found in the Epistles written to the churches or pertaining to them, consideration should be given to the significance of the principle of emphasis. This principle rests upon the premise that the truth, which God has revealed through the writers of the Bible, varies in importance. Basically, this principle means that the truth derived from identification with the writer in emphasis. **In other words, Paul heads the dispensation of grace; thus his writings define more directly the message for grace.** As the Apostle Paul’s fourteen Epistles (Hebrews included) are studied and considered; the truth for the dispensation is presented in each of them.*

The Successful Spiritual Walk



The testimony of the successful spiritual walk of God's people is directly linked to the perception of the truth as it is conveyed by the gospel of the grace of God. In order for one to fully possess the benefits that are afforded by God's word; the elect of God must have more than just some sense of the truth, *but a deep comprehension or insight into the essence of what the gospel of grace entails in this dispensation.*

In Paul's epistle to the Philippians, he states (from the Greek Text), *"Unto the end that you may prove the thing differing, that you may be sincere and without offense unto the day of Christ" (Phil. 1: 10).* Note the Greek phrase translated "Unto the end that you may prove." Here the thought flow posits obedience to that which precedes it, i.e. "the perception of truth" thus it is implied as a pre-requisite to the fulfillment of that which will automatically follow. Note the Greek infinitive translated "to prove" as it is also rendered, "to test, try or examine" the validity of something. It must be fully understood that it is spiritually acceptable to test or examine with the intent to verify, the veracity of the message of grace for this Church age (I Thess. 5:21). Observe the Greek phrase translated "things differing". Here this Greek noun consists of an article and a compound word that comes from the preposition and the verb which literally means to "bear or carry through". Some Bible translations, i.e. King James Version, have rendered the expression "excellent" but its intransitive meaning is "to differ". However the thought progression is that as things differ they excel one another, thus when something is different, it may also be excellent. But it is established by the Greek grammar that in this verse (Phil. 1: 10) as well as other verses in Paul's epistles, the basic meaning and translation is differ (Rom. 2:18; I Corth. 15:41; Gal. 2:6; 4:1). (continued on next page)

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The Successful Spiritual Walk (continued)

Here Paul is obviously referring to the fact that there are different messages in the word of God and that some excel over others. An overview of the Bible reveals that through the ages, God has related to men in different ways. The three major dispensations, which differ according to their messages are, the Mosaic Law (past), Grace Mystery Truth (present) and Kingdom Millennial (future). Note, it is essential for these messages to be arranged accordingly and applied to God's elect for the intended ages (Church or Kingdom). It is a given fact that the message of the present Church age (Mystery Truth) is far superior to the message of prior and future ages (Law-Messianic Kingdom).

The reason believers (of this Church age) are to prove and distinguish (after proper examination) the things differing is clearly stated. In order or "that you may be sincere and with- out offense unto the day of Christ", Here the Greek word translated "sincere" has the basic meaning "unmixed", "pure", "uncorrupted" or "perfect". The Greek word rendered "without offense", means, "not to cause stumbling", hence "not to be mislead into error".

The Grace Gospel Church Ministry believes and teaches that to the degree that God's elect for the dispensation of grace abound in perfect knowledge and discernment of the truth for the Church; we will be able to prove the things differing. (Grace Mystery Truth) is regulated to and in accordance with truth.

Transition Chart: Dispensations and Covenants of the Bible

DISPENSATIONS	BIBLE REFERENCE	GOSPEL/ MESSAGE
INNOCENCE	Genesis	Kingdom / Prophecy
CONSCIENCE	Genesis	Kingdom / Prophecy
HUMAN GOVERNMENT	Genesis	Kingdom / Prophecy
PROMISE	Genesis	Kingdom / Prophecy
LAW	Ex., Lev., Num., Deu. Josh. Judges, Ruth, I, II Sam. I, II Kings, I, II Chr., Ezra, Neh. Esther, Psalms, Proverbs, .. Eccles	Kingdom / Prophecy
LAW with PROPHECY of the KINGDOM	Lamentation, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	Kingdom / Prophesied Prophecy
LAW with Introduction of the KINGDOM	Matthew, Mark, Luke (Synoptic Gospels) John Kingdom at hand, introduction given	Kingdom / Prophecy
Offering of the KINGDOM TRANSITION to GRACE	Acts Ch 1-8 Israel rejects the Kingdom Paul converted in Ch 9, Gospel of the Grace of GOD given to Paul	Kingdom / Prophecy to Grace / Mystery
GRACE	Romans, I,II Corinthians., Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I, II Thessalonians, I, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews	Grace / Mystery
TRIBULATION *not a dispensation	Revelations	Kingdom / Prophecy
KINGDOM/ MILLENNIUM	James I, II Peter, Jude, I, thru III John	Kingdom / Prophecy

Governing Terms of the Grace Covenant and Dispensation

The chart below identifies operational functioning of covenantal/dispensational commitments between God and His elect in the Grace

Major Provisions of the Grace Contract						
Spiritual Functions	Initiation of Relationship	Placement	Affectation of Operation	Nature of Benefits	Security	Eternal Status
Actuation of Blessings in eternity, before creation	Election of chosen ones as new creations in Christ	The Body of Christ, the Church	Justify, sanctify, regenerate, glorify	Imputation of righteous nature of Christ	Propitiation by the blood of Jesus Christ	Sons of God positioned in Christ
Manifestation of Blessings	The gift of faith is activated in the believer	The believer's knowledge of the eternal position	The believer's knowledge of the doctrines of salvation	The believer's knowledge of the eternal nature of Christ	The believer's knowledge of God's eternal decrees	The believer's knowledge of eternal glorification
Duration of Blessings	Eternally unending	Eternally unending	Eternally unending	Eternally unending	Eternally unending	Eternally unending
Contributions, Conditions, Signs and Seal	No input, Conditions or Signs, Seal by the Holy Spirit Romans	No input, Conditions or Signs, Seal by the Holy Spirit	No input, Conditions or Signs, Seal by the Holy Spirit	No input, Conditions or Signs, Seal by the Holy Spirit	No input, Conditions or Signs, Seal by the Holy Spirit	No input, Conditions or Signs, Seal by the Holy Spirit
Mediator and advocate	Jesus Christ I Tim 2:5	Jesus Christ	Jesus Christ	Jesus Christ	Jesus Christ	Jesus Christ

Note: God has always and is continuously manifesting His eternal relationship with His elect through covenant arrangement in every dispensation.

Grace Dispensation Fundamental Terms and Definitions

- ✚ **Adoption:** *God's appointment of believers in sonship.*
- ✚ **Actualization:** To generate realness, reality, produce into action or provide factually.
- ✚ **Decree:** To command, ordain, an order having the force of law or principle, i.e., a formal and authoritative order.
- ✚ **Doctrine:** Teachings
- ✚ **Election:** *God's Sovereign choice of Individuals to Salvation.*
- ✚ **Eternality:** The spiritual sphere or locale of where all are complete in perfection.
- ✚ **Eternal Now:** The essence of all existence abiding in completion.
- ✚ **Existence:** The state of being real or actually current rather than imagined.
- ✚ **Faith:** *Total unconditional commitment and trust in God, which is conveyed as a gift to those chosen by Him.*
- ✚ **Fate:** The development of events beyond creature/creation's control, regarded as determined by an unknown, indefinite power also identified as destiny.
- ✚ **Foreordination (Predestination):** *God's determination beforehand; His foreknowledge of all events infallibly guides those who are destined for salvation.*
- ✚ **Gospel:** "good news"
- ✚ **Grace:** *The free gift or unmerited favor of God granting "freedom" or forgiveness of the sin nature to those whom He elected in eternity.*
- ✚ **Glorification:** *The exalted status of honor and illustrious worth and value bestowed as the elect's final, dignified and righteous state of being.*
- ✚ **Imputation:** *God counts (reckons) the righteousness of Christ to His elect's account.*
- ✚ **Justification:** *Legal term meaning to be declared righteous by God.*

Grace Dispensation Fundamental Terms and Definitions (continued)

- ✚ **Matrix:** Visual representation or indications in grids and/or patterns of measurements for testimonial documentations.
- ✚ **Manifestation:** The outward perceptible indication of revelation or materialization.
- ✚ **Ontology:** Study concerned with what constitutes existence or coming into being.
- ✚ **Propitiation:** *The “acceptable sacrifice” of Jesus Christ as appeasement to God for the offense of the sin nature thus allowing the acceptable standing of the elect.*
- ✚ **Reality:** Actually existent, true or certain.
- ✚ **Reconciliation:** *Restoration of fellowship with God.*
- ✚ **Physicality:** State of material, visual cosmos (worldly, secular) relations.
- ✚ **Redemption:** *The accomplished work of Jesus Christ wherein the shedding of His blood constitutes full payment for the penalty of sin thus releasing God’s elect from the curse of it thereby.*
- ✚ **Righteous:** *God's standard depicting His moral attributes.*
- ✚ **Salvation:** *Total deliverance from of sin/death. God's provision of escape from eternal damnation and separation.*
- ✚ **Sanctification:** *That which is set apart as holy unto God for His divine purpose.*
- ✚ **Sovereignty of God:** *God’s absolute right to decree and exercise His will, plan and purpose without challenge, opposition or question from anyone outside of Himself.*
- ✚ **Spirituality:** State of nonmaterial, non-visual deified relations.
- ✚ **Synergism:** In Theology, the doctrine of the human will plus God working together in order to bring about events and occasions into existence.
- ✚ **Time Capsule:** God’s creation of decreed sequenced representations of courses of past, present, and/or future for the purpose of revealing testimonies in periods therein.
- ✚ **Total Depravity:** *Absolute worthlessness and uselessness of mankind in value.*

NOTES

Standing in the defense and confirmation of the Grace Gospel!

For additional Bible study resources visit our website @www.gracegospelministry.com

Grace Gospel Ministry

AUDIO & VIDEO MESSAGES

Our Sunday Morning audio and webcam messages are archived weekly on the web and are available for your listening and viewing-at no cost.

BIBLE STUDY & CHARTS

Review our bible dispensation chart and their respective covenants. Learn which dispensation and covenant applies to you!

DOCTRINAL DISCOURSES

The Word of God is expounded in the ministry's writings on, "The Spirit of Truth", "The Glorious Body of Christ", "The Doctrine of Eternal Justification" ...and numerous others. Printed text is also downloadable from the site-free of charge!

For specific passages which you'd like to discuss, use our web site comment section to submit your question or call the Church at: [248-582-1987](tel:248-582-1987).

Also, you'll find more information on our new book "Don't be Afraid of God's Will", on youtube.com. Simply type in the book title.



The Bible (Conclusion)

Dispensations and Covenants

God's dealing with mankind thru the ages and His message for us today.



George D. Cutler, Pastor

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